

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

More inmates seek help from court

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More inmates at the Department of Corrections have written to the U.S. District Court for the NMI, asking for help about alleged maltreatment and inhumane conditions at DOC.

» **Inmates alleged maltreatment, inhumane conditions**

Jesse James Babauta Camacho and Xu Guang Li sent letters to the District Court dated March 25 and 28, 2018.

Camacho alleged that his fellow inmate, Jose Santos, is ill, unable to bathe or care for himself, and had to use diapers, but that DOC has refused to provide adequate cleaning and sanitary supplies to clean up the used diapers or eliminate the odor from the facility.

Li wrote that Santos cannot leave his room, even to shower, and when

he asked the DOC officers to spray air freshener, they ignored him.

After Li asked to speak to the "boss," the officer handcuffed and shackled him, threw him in the bunk and took away his wheelchair.

Camacho also described other problems at DOC, including that there is no physician or registered

See INMATES on Page 4

JROTC SPRING BREAK CAMP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A total of 124 cadets took part in the CNMI JROTC Spring Break Camp held last March 23-26 at the Kagman High School. JROTC programs from five schools—Rota, Marianas, Tinian, Kagman, and Saipan Southern high schools—took part in the camp that had participants undergo military style leadership training and friendly competition.



Labor abuses muddy future of CNMI work visa program

By **SOPHIA YAN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—A push to save and expand a visa program unique to the Northern Mariana Islands is hitting skids after recent cases of labor abuse and visa fraud, delivering a major blow to the U.S. commonwealth's economy, which relies heavily on foreign workers.

The visa classification, known as
See LABOR on Page 4



AP

In this March 13, 2018 file photo, Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, speaks during a committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

JAL reinvigorates Guam Japan tourism market

By **BEA CABRERA**
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CORRESPONDENT

GUAM—Last week, Japan Airlines doubled its daily flights from Narita

to Guam, making good its commitment last December to offer two daily flights beginning March 25, 2018.

According to Guam Visitors Bureau president and CEO Nathan De-

night, JAL's announcement is major news for Guam's tourism industry.

"It will bring much needed airline seat capacity from Japan. It also

See JAL on Page 4

Trial set for 2 men who allegedly stole 'branches of bananas'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Many years ago, a woman's conviction for stealing a towel from a ho-

tel's swimming pool area reached the CNMI Supreme Court. The case was popularly branded by a judge as "the great towel case."

This July a Superior Court bench

trial is set for two men accused of conspiring to steal "branches of bananas."

The court has appointed Michael Dotts and Robert T. Torres as counsel

See TRIAL on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

If you're looking for warm, genuine Filipino hospitality and an unforgettable experience to match for your next getaway, Resorts World Manila is the perfect choice.

PAGE 16



NATION

A woman opened fire with a handgun Tuesday in a courtyard at YouTube headquarters, wounding three people before fatally shooting herself.

PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE

Real life will imitate art this spring at the USA series "Suits" when series regular Meghan Markle bids farewell to the legal drama in a wedding.

PAGE 21



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Disbarred lawyer allowed to file for reinstatement after 6 months

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the CNMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood has ruled that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit's decision not to impose the CNMI courts' reciprocal discipline of disbarment on lawyer Stephen C. Woodruff is not binding on the District Court.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the District Court is not bound to reciprocate and impose the same discipline that the Ninth Circuit did on Woodruff, namely probation.

Tydingco-Gatewood discussed the Ninth Circuit's decision in her order last Wednesday, March 28, modifying her previous order that reciprocated Woodruff's disbarment by the CNMI courts.

The judge suspended Woodruff from practice in the District Court for a period of one year from the date of her order.

During the period of suspension, Woodruff is permitted to resume representation in cases that were pending before the District Court in which he

was the attorney of record at the time reciprocal discipline was imposed, if the client so requests in written declaration to the court.

Tydingco-Gatewood said Woodruff may apply for reinstatement after the expiration of at least one half of the period of suspension—that is, six months and one day from the entry of this order.

The judge directed the clerk of court to send a copy of her order to the Ninth Circuit.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she has a firm conviction that reciprocal discipline was warranted and that she was correct to impose it on Woodruff.

The judge noted that in its own original reciprocal-discipline proceeding, the Ninth Circuit did not review her reciprocal discipline order or comment on it.

Nevertheless, Tydingco-Gatewood said she is mindful of the Ninth Circuit's decision, and recognizes that it is based on a review of essentially the same record of CNMI disciplinary proceedings and on application of the same law.

In her order issued on March 9, 2017, Tydingco-

Gatewood imposed the CNMI courts' reciprocal discipline on Woodruff and disbarred him from practice of law before the District Court.

In that March 9 order, Tydingco-Gatewood said Woodruff was given fair notice and an opportunity to be heard by

» **But judge says 9th Circuit order placing Woodruff only on probation, not binding on the District Court**

the CNMI courts.

Tydingco-Gatewood said Woodruff is not allowed to accept any new retainer or engage as the attorney for another in any new case or legal matter of any nature.

The judge said Woodruff may not apply for reinstatement until the expiration of at least two years from the effective date of disbarment.

In 2013, then-Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman disbarred Woodruff from the practice of law

in the CNMI for 44 violations of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

The CNMI Supreme Court affirmed the disbarment order in 2015. The District Court then issued to Woodruff a notice of intent to impose reciprocal discipline.

In 2016, the CNMI Supreme Court denied respondent Woodruff's petition for rehearing.

After Tydingco-Gatewood imposed the reciprocal discipline on March 9, 2017, Woodruff moved to modify the order, but she denied it.

Woodruff appealed.

Meanwhile, the Ninth Circuit was itself considering whether to impose reciprocal discipline on Woodruff. The matter was referred to the appellate commissioner, who conducted a hearing and prepared a report and recommendation.

The appellate commissioner found lack of due process, infirmity of proof, and grave risk of injustice, and recommended that the Ninth Circuit should not accord a presumption of correctness to the Commonwealth disciplinary

proceedings.

Nonetheless, in light of a pattern of failures of Woodruff to meet deadlines and follow Ninth Circuit rules in various appeals, the appellate commissioner recommended imposition of alternative discipline of 18 months' probation.

The appellate commissioner recommended that during the probationary period, Woodruff would be allowed to complete pending appeals but prohibited from taking new cases.

Last Oct. 26, Woodruff filed the present motion for relief from judgment, asserting that the appellate commissioner exposed the flaws in the Commonwealth disciplinary proceedings and that the District Court should therefore revise its own analysis of the record.

Woodruff offered to accept a period of probation not to exceed 18 months and asserted that at a minimum he should be allowed to complete his representation of Dr. Gary Ramsey.

Ramsey, a former medical staff at the Commonwealth Health Center, has a pending wrongful termination lawsuit in federal court against the

CNMI government, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and others.

Last Nov. 15, the Ninth Circuit issued an order adopting the appellate commissioner's recommendations in all respects except for the restriction on taking new cases during the probationary period, a restriction to which Woodruff had objected.

Last Nov. 30, Tydingco-Gatewood issued a notice to Woodruff indicating an inclination to grant the motion and proposing to modify its order of discipline.

The proposal were to impose one year's suspension from the date relief is granted; permission to resume representing Ramsey; restriction against bringing new cases during the probationary period; and permission to apply for reinstatement after six months.

Woodruff filed a response to the court's notice and declined the court's proposal.

Woodruff stated that he "does not believe it is appropriate to impose discipline on respondent that is harsher and

See **DISBARRED** on Page 4



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2018 is year of the coral reef

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This entire year has been officially designated for the protection and advocacy of the coral reef, one of the CNMI's most critical resources.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, in conjunction with the International Coral Reef Initiative, has designated 2018 as the year to raise awareness on the current threat to the islands' coral reef.

The coral reef serves as a barrier between life-threatening storms and life-threatening currents, protects our coastline from erosion, serves as a habitat for marine life, and are considered the cornerstone for the islands' tourism industry.

Unfortunately, this vital resource has been dying out due to pollution, unsustainable land use and development, recreational misuse, and the overall impact of climate change.

In recognizing the economic, ecological, and cultural importance of coral reefs, the CNMI Coral Reef Initiative works to protect and preserve these valuable resources through biological monitoring, habitat restoration, research, enforcement, and educational outreach.

The International Coral Reef Initiative was declared in 2018 as the third International Year of the Reef as part of an ongoing campaign to raise awareness about the value and importance of coral reefs and threats to their sustainability, and to motivate people to take action to protect them.

The proclamation would serve to strengthen awareness about the ecological, economic, social, and cultural value of coral reefs and associated ecosystems while also improving the understanding of the critical threats to coral reefs and, as a result, generate both practical and innovative solutions to reduce the threats, and generate action at all levels to develop and implement effective management strategies for conservation and sustainable.

The CNMI Coral Reef Initiative and the Division of Coastal Resources Management, alongside local natural resource managers, scientists, community leaders and volunteers, will work together to

achieve these goals by hosting a number of activities throughout the year to engage the public in actively partici-

pating in the protection and preservation of the CNMI's coral reefs.

Throughout the year, com-

munity members can look forward to marches, workshops, and conferences that focus on spreading awareness of the

coral reefs' current status and how the community can partner with different agencies like the Division of Coastal

Resource management and the CNMI Coral Reef Initiative to preserve and protect these vital resources.


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CHCC on proposed \$5.5M budget: We are open to discussion

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive office said yesterday that she remains open to discussing the corporation's

budget for fiscal year 2019.

CHCC CEO Esther Muña told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that although she is grateful to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' proposed budget of a little over \$5.5 million appropriated

toward the corporation, the amount is not enough.

"We feel it is important to recognize that reimbursing CHCC for the costs of providing health care to the indigent is essential in providing over-

all quality health care to all the people of the CNMI," said Muña. "We are grateful to the administration for recognizing this and allocating this amount for CHCC in FY 2019."

According to Muña, CHCC

requested for an appropriation of over \$29.8 million for fiscal year 2019. *Saipan Tribune* failed to obtain a copy of the CHCC budget request.

Muña said the budget request comprises the "shortfall of treating the indigent and the shortfall of the Medicaid compensation."

"We are open to discussing this shortfall further with the governor and the lawmakers on the need for this requested amount," she said.

CHCC for fiscal year 2018

requested a budget of over \$90 million, while it asked for \$46.2 million for fiscal year 2017. The CNMI Legislature appropriated \$844,933 and \$708,311 to CHCC for fiscal years 2017 and 2018, respectively. For fiscal year 2016, the Legislature appropriated over \$2.8 million.

Torres in a press release last Monday announced that of the \$258.1 million CNMI budget for fiscal year 2019, about \$5.5 million goes to CHCC.

LABOR

From Page 1

CW-1, allows employers to seek permission to hire foreign workers and is aimed at alleviating a labor shortage among the Pacific islands' population of roughly 52,000. The program was launched about a decade ago and has brought in nurses, teachers, hotel maids, bakers and more.

But a recent spate of visa abuses in the Northern Mariana Islands has cast a shadow over efforts to bolster the program, due to sunset next year.

Just this month, labor authorities reached a \$14 million settlement with Chinese companies for exploiting a visa waiver loophole to bring

in illegal workers. And a local businessman and two associates were convicted in federal court for their role in a scheme to defraud foreigners by promising them U.S. jobs and green cards in exchange for cash.

"Seen from the distance of Washington, D.C., this looks like a program that doesn't deserve to be continued — it's not being properly monitored for abuse," said Bruce Mailman, an attorney at Mailman & Kara in Saipan who has worked with companies employing workers on the CW-1 visa. Still, "it's a critical program for this place."

Only 4,999 visas have been allotted for 2019, half of what was available the previous year.

Cutting the number of visas threatens jobs and hurts the

Marianas economy, Rep. Gregorio Sablan, a Democrat representing the islands, said in a March 23 statement. He also has said recent violations of U.S. law give the Marianas a black eye and make it increasingly challenging to maintain a sufficient workforce.

A bill introduced in January by Sablan and U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, an Alaska Republican who recently visited the islands, seeks to extend the program for another decade. It would increase the number of visas allotted and crack down on oversight.

Provisions to defend against labor abuses include allowing only "legitimate businesses" to be approved for permits — defined as firms that comply with wage laws and safety reg-

ulations for at least five years. Companies cannot engage in illegal activities, such as human trafficking, according to a version of the bill from March 20. It also reiterates that construction firms are barred from using the program, a change that passed into law last year in a separate bill.

The U.S. Labor Department has found contractors with the Hong Kong firm Imperial Pacific in violation of most of those requirements. Imperial Pacific is building a casino in Saipan, the largest of the Northern Mariana Islands. But construction stalled as thousands of illegal workers returned home to China following an FBI raid after a Chinese man died in a construction accident.

JAL

From Page 1

sends a confident and positive message to the Japanese travel industry that Guam continues to be a safe, peaceful, and family friendly destination," he said.

"We look forward to achieving more results for the people of Guam through this partnership among GVB, the Governor's Office, Guam International Airport Authority, and Guam Economic Development Authority," he added.

Narita to Guam flights have been hit hard due to the pullout of Delta Air Lines effective Jan. 8. United Airlines started

to cut flights from Sapporo, Fukuoka, Osaka and Nagoya and Sendai flights to Guam have ceased effective April 1. Both carriers attributed the pullout and flight cuts to weak demand on those routes.

GBV public information officer Josh Tyquienco said that Japan Airlines' decision to add a second daily flight to Guam was a result of the strategic and collaborative effort among the Guam Visitors Bureau, Guam International Airport Authority, and Guam Economic Development Agency.

"The additional flight helps with seating capacity from Japan to Guam. The flight is scheduled through October 2018 and will provide over

50,000 more seats to Guam on a 767 aircraft. GVB continues to meet with its current airline partners, as well as potential carriers, to encourage more flights to Guam," he added.

The CNMI faces similar challenges as Delta ends flights to Saipan and Palau effective May 8. The Japanese market will have to go through Guam or Incheon, Korea to reach Saipan after Delta ceases to operate its direct route from Narita to Saipan.

In a statement, Hiroko Okada, from the corporate communications department of Delta Air Lines, attributed this decision to "unsustainable pressure," including lower demand, in the Micro-

nesia market.

In an earlier interview, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion said that they are aggressively working with a number of airlines that have expressed an interest in taking over the route.

"We are also hopeful for a brighter future with the shift in market dynamics happening today. The [low-cost carrier] revolution is spreading like wildfire around the world, and going forward we foresee this trend picking up quickly in the Marianas and Micronesia, given that Japan is essentially a short-haul, three-hour flight from the CNMI," he said.

INMATES

From Page 1

nurse there; medicines are inconsistent and missing; inmates get skin disease from their uniforms because of how the washers clean the uniforms; the disciplinary system does not benefit the inmates through assignments or work duty; and there are no education programs despite there being enough funds.

In her order issued yesterday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said upon screening the complaint, she finds a cognizable and non-frivolous claim with respect to the lack of sanitary supplies; lack of a physician or registered nurse to perform exams; medications being missing or inconsistent; and inmates obtaining skin disease from unclean uniforms for a violation of the Eight Amendment's guarantee

to be free from inhumane confinement conditions resulting from deliberate indifference of officials.

However, Manglona said, Camacho's complaints about lack of educational programs and disciplinary system that does not benefit inmates do not state a claim under the Eight Amendment.

Manglona said the complaint is deficient because they never indicate which officials or entities they intend to name as defendants.

The judge said although Camacho and Li mention various individuals by name, the court will not presume that those are the individuals they would like to hold liable.

Manglona said until Camacho and Li name defendants, this case cannot proceed.

She said the proper course is for the court to give plaintiffs the opportunity to do so, rather than dismiss the complaint.

Accordingly, Manglona

ordered Camacho and Li to submit a written statement of the names of all individual government officers and/or government entities that they are suing.

Manglona said if plaintiffs would like to add more details about their claims, they may do so, but only with respect to prison officials' treatment of Santos, lack of physician or registered nurse, inconsistent or missing medications, and inmates obtaining skin disease from unclean uniforms.

Manglona said if plaintiffs seek appointment of counsel and/or to proceed without paying the court filing fees, they must file a request to do so.

Manglona said if plaintiffs need assistance with filing these statements, they may contact the District Court's clerk's office.

She said these statements must be sent to the court by placing it in the prisoner mail at DOC within 14 days of the

date on which plaintiffs receive this order.

"Failure to do so will result in dismissal of this case," the judge said.

Inmate Reynaldo A. Manila was the first to write a letter, requesting help from the federal court. He claimed that he may be losing his vision due to the negligence of DOC.

Inmate Anthony Rios followed with a handwritten letter to the District Court, seeking an appointment of a lawyer. He alleged that DOC denied his request to use the computer with internet access so he could research to support his case.

Jesse Camacho later also wrote a letter, claiming that he is now a disabled person after he underwent heart surgery last November. He blamed a DOC official and a DOC officer for allegedly causing the delay of his medical treatment.

The District Court entertained all the inmates' letters.

TRIAL

From Page 1

for defendants Hilario Teigita Angui and Jonathan Babauta Ayuyu, respectively.

At a status conference yesterday before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho in a room at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, the defendants and their court-appointed counsel appeared. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilberscheid represented the government.

Camacho set the bench trial for July 2 at 9am.

It was assistant attorney general J. Robert Glass Jr. who filed the information charging the 34-year-old Angui and 21-year-old Ayuyu each with conspiracy to commit theft and theft.

Glass stated in the information that on Dec. 14 and/or Dec. 16, 2016 on Saipan, Angui and Ayuyu conspired to steal branches of bananas belonging to Miguel Aldan Fleming.

Glass said the stolen branches of bananas have the value of less than \$250.

DISBARRED

From Page 2

more restrictive than that imposed by the Ninth Circuit."

Woodruff asserted that probation is an available means of discipline because, although not set forth in the District Court's Local Disciplinary Rules, it is provided for in the CNMI Disciplinary Rules.

In modifying her previous order, Tydingco-Gatewood said she does not find probation to be appropriate in this case and in this District Court.

Tydingco-Gatewood said Woodruff observes that probation is available under the Commonwealth disciplinary rules.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the CNMI bar, however, has a standing disciplinary committee specifically tasked with supervising probationers.

The District Court bar, the judge noted, has only ad hoc

disciplinary committees, and no structure for ongoing supervision of attorneys under discipline who are handling a regular case load.

Therefore, Tydingco-Gatewood said, she will modify her reciprocal discipline order as it outlined in its notice.

She said the modification will give Woodruff the opportunity to show his progress in attention to deadlines and other matters of competent representation in the Ramsey case.

Ramsey has declared in court pleadings his desire for Woodruff to continue representing him.

Tydingco-Gatewood said Woodruff may apply for full reinstatement to the District Court bar in as little as six months.

Woodruff asserted that, "the imposition of reciprocal discipline, particularly the sanction of disbarment, would be unwarranted and unjust."

Drug trafficker who pleaded guilty gets 18-month prison term

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed yesterday a five-year prison sentence, all suspended except one year and six months, on a man who was arrested in 2016 for allegedly selling methamphetamine or “ice” on Saipan, but

pleaded guilty to the offense of illegal possession of controlled substance.

Camacho said the suspended sentence may be imposed against defendant Liu Zheng Shan for any violation of CNMI and federal laws, or rules of the Office of Adult Probation.

Shan, 52, also known as Papa, was given credit for

time served since his arrest on April 4, 2016.

Upon completion of the prison term, Camacho said, Shan will be placed on probation for three years and shall pay the probation fees.

Shan, a Chinese national, has no prior criminal history. He originally came to the CNMI in 1998 and worked legally in the garment industry. When the garment industry ended, he illegally stayed doing odd jobs as a farmer, at a golf course, and in construction.

Camacho directed the clerk of court to provide the U.S. Department of Homeland Se-

curity-Immigration and Customs Enforcement a copy of the sentencing order.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds, counsel for the government, recommended a prison sentence of five years.

Chief public defender Douglas Hartig, counsel for Shan, recommended a sentence of time served of 16 months. Such recommendation in effect would allow the defendant to be released immediately.

Shan pleaded guilty in January 2017.

The Office of the Attorney General originally charged the defendant with traffick-

ing of a controlled substance and illegal possession of controlled substance, which carry a total maximum sentence of 30 consecutive years of imprisonment.

OAG then filed a request to amend the information to remove the charge of trafficking of controlled substance. The court granted the motion.

The remaining count of illegal possession of controlled substance carries a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment.

In other words, Camacho said, OAG “discounted 25 years, or 83 percent of the possible consecutive maximum sentence.”

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Shan unlawfully possessed 1.5 gross grams of crystal methamphetamine on April 1, 2016 on Saipan.

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officer Roque K. Camacho stated in his report that a cooperating defendant was able to buy \$230 worth of “ice” from Shan during a “buy-walk” operation on April 1, 2016 in Chalan Kanoa.

During the operation, the officer said, the cooperating defendant first met Shan outside a poker arcade in Chalan Kanoa, then the two proceeded to a parking lot of a store in Chalan Kanoa.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military to Conduct Training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) on April 6 from noon to 8pm.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055. (PR)

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on April 11

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, starting at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room.

To RSVP or for more information, call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamari-

anas@gmail.com. (PR)

PTSA meeting at San Antonio school

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, formerly San Antonio Middle School, will conduct a Parent Teacher Student Association meeting on Thursday, April 5, at 6pm in the school's cafeteria. (PR)

Art-in-the-Park at the AMP

The American Memorial Park is partnering with artists and organizations to provide free art classes to the community under the 2nd Annual Art-in-the-Park series. All ages are welcome. Kimberly Mendiola will teach watercolor painting on April 7, from 9am to 12pm. At the end of the art sessions, on April 21, artwork will be displayed at the Visitor Center for the National Park Week. Space is limited so register soon! To register for a class, visit the American Memorial Park Visitor Center. The center is open daily from 9am to 5pm. For questions contact ranger Brooke Nevitt or education specialist Jovanna Mafnas at 234-7207x2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. (PR)



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Board of Governors of the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture, hereby give notice that a regular meeting of the Museum will be held on Friday, April 6, 2018 at 10:00am at the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan, Saipan. All interested persons are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 664-2160 or send fax to 664-2170.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Ascertain Quorum
- III. Approval of Previous Minutes
- IV. Reports
 - A. Chairman's Report
 - B. Committee Reports
 1. Treasurers Report
 - C. Executive Directors Report
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business
 - A. Marianas Bundle Collection (Part I & II)
 - B. Assistant AG-LSR Report
 - C. Department of Finance-Bernie Palacios
 - D. FY 2019 Budget
- VII. Miscellaneous Matters
- VIII. Announcements
- IX. Adjournment

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Torres enacts law starting cemetery fund

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Wednesday enacted a law that seeks to start a revolving fund for the maintenance and safe money keeping of a

cemetery for fees associated with veterans.

Torres enacted Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 20-70, which seeks to create a special account called the CNMI Veterans Cemetery revolving fund. The bill is now known as Public Law 20-49.

The fund would contain fees, donations, or contributions to the Veteran's Cemetery in Marpi and shall be

used for the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery and its associated facilities without legislative appropriation. The fund is separate from the general fund.

The fund would also be composed of fees collected for the registration and use of U.S. Armed Forces veteran vehicles license plates.

The cemetery grounds and facilities are to be maintained by the Office of Military Liaison and Veterans Affairs, headed by executive officer Oscar Torres.

NMC Charter Day Proa Factor deadline extended

Northern Marianas College's Charter Day Planning Committee has announced that the deadline for submitting entry forms for the Charter Day Proa Factor talent competition has been extended to Friday, April 6, 2018, by 3pm.

All bands and dance groups of more than eight members must submit a video recording of their audition to compete. A video submission is strictly for bands and large dance groups only. The video submission deadline is on Friday, April 6, 2018, by 12pm and the video can be sent to charter.day@marianas.edu.

Those who are interested can log on to www.marianas.edu to access the online form. Paper applications are available at NMC's cashier window and can also be submitted at the cashier window.

Live auditions will be held on Friday, April 6, 2018, at 6pm at NMC in room D1.

Singers, dancers, dance groups, slam poets, musi-



NMC's Charter Day Planning Committee has recently announced that the deadline for submitting entry forms for the Charter Day Proa Factor talent competition has been extended to Friday, April 6, 2018, by 3pm. Large bands and dance groups must submit their video auditions by 12pm on Friday, April 6, 2018. In this photo are this year's Proa Factor talent competition hosts, Romolo Orsini and Monique Sablan.

cians, bands, DJs, and other talented performers are encouraged to audition.

Interested individuals or groups must be 12 and older to compete. Top contestants will perform at Charter Day on April 13, 2018.

The Charter Day festivities will kick off at 4pm and will continue until 10pm at the NMC South Field in As Terlaje on Friday, April 13, 2018. The event will feature various entertainment and competitions. Numerous ven-

dors will also be selling food and drinks, as well as hosting game booths.

Contact Kenneth Gabrido at charter.day@marianas.edu or call 237-6770 for more details about the PROA Factor Talent competition. **(PR)**

Wanted: Mariana Trench park ranger

The federal government recently announced a federally funded position as a park ranger for the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. The position will be based in Guam or on Saipan when the new monument office opens.

The announcement was welcomed by ocean advocates.

"The hiring of staff to manage the Mariana Trench Monument has been a long time coming, and we commend our federal government partners for finally putting out this job description," said Ignacio V. Cabrera, chairman of the Friends of the Monument. "We hope that our local people will consider applying."

The person hired will participate in the Visitor Ser-

vices program planning and implementation, evaluating operations and making recommendations to management on activities, practices and methods, and reviewing, planning and coordinating Visitor Services activities. The position is expected to pay between \$50,598 to \$65,778 per year.

"It is exciting to see our vision for the Mariana Trench coming together," added Cabrera. "We hope that the next step will be to begin the sanctuary process as we first envisioned more than ten years ago."

Details on the job description can be found on the usajobs.gov website: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/494926900>. **(PR)**

Veterans, military service members, their families, and friends are invited to —

The 2nd Northern Marianas Veterans Resource Fair 2018

hosted by

Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

ROTA- April 4th, 2018, Mayor's Conference Hall, 9:30am - 12:30pm

SAIPAN- April 5th, 2018, Multipurpose Center, 5:30pm - 8:30pm

TINIAN- April 6th, 2018, Tinian Library, 2:30pm - 5:30pm



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VA Choice Providers
NMI Government, Nonprofit,
and Private Institutions**

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Contact your congressional office at 323-2647 (Saipan), 433-2647 (Tinian), or 532-2647 (Rota) or email kilili@mail.house.gov for more information.

Rotary exchange students mesmerized by Saipan

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two students from the Interact Club in Tokyo Hachiko Yoshi South arrived on Saipan last Sunday and have already grown immediately attached to the island's beauty and culture.

During the Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant, Japanese high school students Christina Fukuoka and Moa Shirasa from Tokyo Hachiko Yoshi South were asked to share their experience on Saipan so far. According to them, the overall aspect of Saipan amazed them.

According to Fukuoka, upon coming to Saipan, she was given the opportunity to practice and further enhance her English skills at the local schools they attended in the last two days.

Shirasa said that she also wanted to enhance her English skills, but mostly, she wanted to see the captivating island views.

Fukuoka said that after being on Saipan for the past three days, she is still left speechless by the island's atmosphere and its culture.

"The people are very kind



KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Interact Club students from Tokyo Hachiko Yoshi South Christina Fukuoka and Moa Shirasa shared with Rotary Club of Saipan members their current thoughts on the island of Saipan during the weekly Rotary Club meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Tuesday.

and sweet and I have made many friendships so far and people really accepted me even though I was really awkward," she said.

Shirasa and Fukuoka have already been to Saipan International School and Marianas High School in the past two days and are excited for their visits to Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School.

Fukuoka said she observed that the school system here is far different than what she is used to in Japan.

Fukuoka's main observation was that the school system on Saipan is co-ed where girls and boys take the same classes and have the same break times where as in Japan, it is not common to see boys and girls take the same classes and the same breaks.

According to Rotary Club president-elect Greg Borja, Fukuoka and Shirasa will not only get a taste of Saipan's public school system, but they will also be taken to many of the historical landmarks and tourist sites on Saipan.



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For information, please call **483-6271****

Express Financial supports MMAC 2018

Express Financial has recommit-
ted its support for the Mar-
ianas March Against Cancer,
making it another year of par-
ticipation in the CNMI’s fight
against cancer.
This year, the company
has donated \$500 in cash to
MMAC 2018.
“Thank you to Express Fi-
nancial for providing us with
their generous contribution
that will help make this year’s
MMAC event spectacular,”
said MMAC 2018 Sponsor-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Express Financial officials hand over their \$500 donation to the Marianas March Against Cancer or-
ganizing committee.

ship chair Monique Sablan.
“Express Financial’s con-
tribution underscores their
dedication in this great cause.
We are very grateful for their
recommitment. This year’s

MMAC is shaping up to be a
great one,” said MMAC 2018
co-chair Carline Sablan.
“We are very grateful for
companies like Express Fi-
nancial who support the cause.

The fight against cancer re-
quires an entire community,
and it shows how MMAC
is more than just an annual
event,” said MMAC 2018 co-
chair Bobby Cruz. **(PR)**

Emergency water service interruption for Obyan, Ladder Beach areas

The Commonwealth Utilities
Corp. would like to inform
the general public that there
is an emergency water service
interruption in the Obyan and
Ladder Beach areas.
The cause of the interrup-
tion is from a pump and motor
failure at the OB-13 CUC wa-
ter well that was identified this

morning. Water operations
personnel are currently mak-
ing the necessary replacement
and anticipate completion to-
day at 5pm. Customers in the
affected areas will receive wa-
ter services today from 10am
to 12pm with resumed 24-
hour water service at 5pm.
CUC continues to work

diligently to minimize any
inconvenience to its custom-
ers. For more information,
contact the CUC Customer
Call Center (664-4282) or
monitor our Facebook page
for the latest updates ([https://
www.facebook.com/Com-
monwealthUtilitiesCorpora-
tion/](https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/)). **(PR)**

MAFEA to offer basic construction plan reading workshop

The Marianas Association of
Filipino Engineers and Ar-
chitects will be conducting a
free basic construction plan
reading workshop on April
15, 2018.

Due to limited sitting
availability, only the first
30 confirmed registrants
will be accepted.
For more information,
contact MAFEA secretary
Lito Marquez at 989-8905,

treasurer Andrew Mesina at
785-9688, president Larry
Manacop at 789-8893, Ruel
Magtalas at 287-7835, or
email to [mafea.publicrela-
tions@gmail.com](mailto:mafea.publicrela-
tions@gmail.com) or [litomar-
quez2012@gmail.com](mailto:litomar-
quez2012@gmail.com). **(PR)**


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in the field of construction
industry.

Torres signs two House bills into law


Please submit complet-
ed registration form to any
MAFEA Officer. You may
also email your completed
registration form to [mafea.
publicrelations@gmail.com](mailto:mafea.
publicrelations@gmail.com).
Deadline for registration is on
or before April 6, 2018.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last
week signed into law two
bills from the House of Rep-
resentatives.
House Bill 20-88 HD1,
SD3, updates the Education
Act of 1988 to accurately re-
flect the evolving educational
system and the global eco-
nomic impact on our students
and our community as a whole.
Authored by Rep. Edwin P.

Aldan (R-Tinian), this bill be-
comes Public Law 20-48.
House Bill 20-70 SD1,
meanwhile, officially es-
tablishes a CNMI Veter-
ans Cemetery account that
is separate and apart from
the General Fund. Authored
by Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon
Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), this
bill becomes Public Law 20-
49. **(PR)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW-18-IFB-014

SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF STOREFRONT DOOR/WINDOWS FOR THE OFFICE OF AGING, ROTA

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Supply Delivery and Installation of Storefront Door/Windows for Office of Aging, Rota** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **April 5, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect.”

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 24, 2018, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the **Office of Aging, ROTA**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 2, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **“DPW-18-IFB-014”**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **9:00 a.m. local time May 7, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **9:00 a.m. local time, May 7, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 7, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **May 16, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, May 18, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on May 7, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **\$70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash

2) US Gov't Securities

3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange

4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and

5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Sixty (60) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

TO: RACHEL T. F. DELEON GUERRERO and APRIL LYNN P. RIOS

You are in default in your Promissory Noted dates September 26, 2013 (addendum dated March 25, 2014), secured by a Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:
Lot no. 011 G 1302, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, containing an area of 931 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check no. 011 G 24, dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 96-2567, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: September 26, 2013; \$64,152.00

c) Amount due for principal: \$11,307.67 as of June 1, 2017

d) Amount due for interest: \$2,811.91 as of June 1, 2017

e) Daily accruing interest: \$2.40

If the principal, interest, and late charges \$14,119.58, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees in the amount of \$500.00, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30)-day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Ti un komple i kontratan debimu (Promissory Note) ni un fitma gi Septembre 26, 2013 (addendum gi Matso 25, 2014), ni afabobot i Mortagage ma aseguro i tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empeña (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empenen (mortgaged):
Sito numiro 011 G 1302, ni gaigi gi Kagman III, Saipan Note Marianas, ni ha konsiste un aria 931 kuadro metro, mas pat menus, ni anak gi DLS Check numino 011 G 24, gi Disiembre 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File numiro 96-2567, guih i deskripsion ni ma incorporate guini ginen i infotmasion.

b) I kantida yan i fechan este na debi yan empepeña: Septembre 26, 2013; \$64,152.00

c) Kantida un debi para principat: \$11,307.67 asta ki Juño 1, 2017

d) Kantida un debi para interes: \$2,811.91 asta ki Juño 1, 2017

e) Interes kada dia: \$2.40

Yangin ti un apasi i kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) \$14,119.58 yan i resanable na apas abugado pot \$500.00 gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple i kontratamu (default), yan siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma bendi i propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yun kontra minagaget-ña pot i apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infototma hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmasion pot i dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi i kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe i kata-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'i hao i na'an yan address i akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na kata para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi i dibi-mu. Maseha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera — siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi rehoki para este i dibi-mu.

/s/
MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law



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Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Schools need to keep students safe, not act like thought police

These are difficult days for schools as they try to figure out how and when to discipline students for misbehavior, disruption, bullying and other actions. Social media has further complicated the matter, blurring the lines between behavior on campus, where schools clearly can set rules, and behavior off campus, where it is not so obvious that they can. As unclear as the lines might be, though, several recent cases show a disturbing willingness among schools to leap over them:

■ In Houston, a student was suspended last fall for refusing to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. That's just ludicrous in this day and age; it's been accepted for decades that students should not be compelled to participate in the pledge against their will. The student is suing, and we hope she'll win.

■ In Nevada, a high school student used foul language during a phone call to a congressman's office to argue for stronger gun control. The office then complained to his school, and the boy was suspended. But what right does the school have to punish a kid for speaking his mind, even rudely, on a public policy issue when he's not in school?

■ In New Jersey, a school district adopted a policy that banned students from being in possession of guns — off campus as well as on. But really, shouldn't it be obvious even to strong supporters of gun control that a school can't punish students for engaging in a perfectly legal activity — such as going to a firing range with their parents — after school hours? After an outcry involving two students who supposedly did just that, the school district said this week that it is modifying the policy so it no longer covers legal gun use off campus.

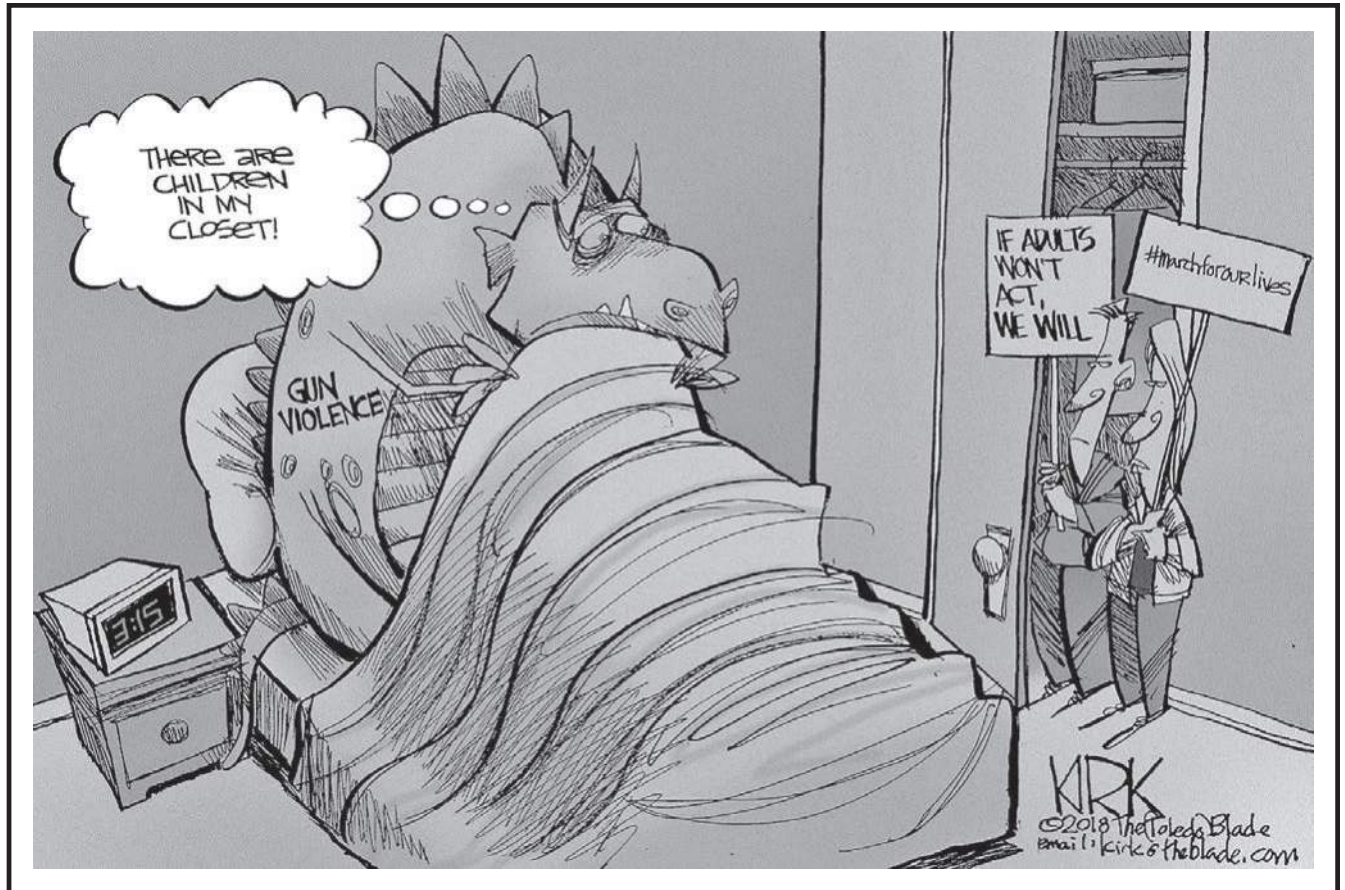
What could these school officials be thinking?

Then there's a whole separate series of controversies over clothing. In 2015, a school pulled a student from class and reprimanded her for wearing a T-shirt saying, "Nobody knows I'm a lesbian." The school argued that the shirt was "offensive and distracting," before being forced — rightly — to back down. Still, the next year, shortly before the 2016 presidential election, a student at a Florida school reportedly was told she would have to change out of her anti-Hillary Clinton T-shirt or go home for the day. She chose the latter.

Schools (and occasionally courts) appear to need repeated reminders that students have a right to express their opinions, including unpopular ones, in school and out. It can get complicated because schools do have a right to step in when the language is truly threatening or disruptive. But school administrators too often have confused controversy with disruption. Some students might not like what they see on another student's T-shirt. They might even find it offensive. But they don't need to be sheltered from controversy or offense. Chances are they'll talk about it, debate it, argue over it — and that's a good thing.

School authorities also should keep in mind that girls are

See **SCHOOLS** on Next Page



Mass shootings: Let's face it, the real issue is mental health

The nation's convulsion of conscience after each modern mass shooting has become eerily predictable. Thoughts and prayers. Flowers on the sidewalk. Teary memorial services.

And cries — sometimes very loud, large ones, as followed the recent Florida school shooting — to do something about firearms. All this to ignite a national conversation.

Because Americans do not listen to each other anymore, it becomes instead a pointless national argument, stoked by those benefiting from public strife, including media.

And as much as proponents on all sides may genuinely believe their case, history reveals very little of substance ever results from such convulsions, even in election years, as passions and pains subside. Where are all those changes Sandy Hook would provoke?

But something serious can be done — must be done — to prevent or reduce these deadly outbursts. We don't need new laws. We need a serious social, legal and education confrontation with the issue of mental health.

That's uncomfortable for sure, the ugly elephant in society's living room. No one talks about a shooter's dangerous mental health until it's too late. Using the cover of political correctness, we recoil from terms like crazy and bananas and avoid the topic entirely. Because having a gun is dangerous. But having a mental illness engenders sympathy that cloaks the danger.

Whatever the words, mentally ill is what they are. In Florida, for example, several someones saw Nikolas Cruz' condition. And if anyone had the courage to say so, those 17 kids might not be dead. As well as many other victims before and those yet to come because vocal Americans with opinions on anything suddenly turn afraid to talk mental health.

We need to treat them humanely, of course, but differently. Because too many innocent people have paid the ultimate price for our reluctance to face the mental health stigma. That's crazy.

The Secret Service, which has a keen professional interest in shooters, has studied mass shootings. A major theme: Mental illness. Do ya think? No sane person walks into a school or church intent on killing as many as possible.

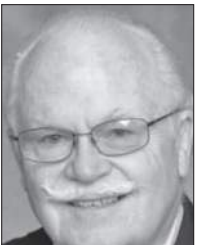
What's surprising is that as a society we haven't seriously picked up on that after all these lethal incidents and established a real system to spot and deal with them before.

Think of the intricate security and profiling system in place to screen and search hundreds of thousands of air passengers daily, almost all of them as innocent as the underwear that gets scanned.

The most recent Secret Service update of 28 shootings with

By **ANDREW MALCOLM**
Special to McClatchy

Andrew Malcolm is an author and veteran national and foreign correspondent covering politics since the 1960s. Follow him @AHMalcolm.



150 victims found that three-quarters of the shooters had displayed unusual behavior or writings that raised suspicions among others, who said or did nothing before it was too late.

Many shooters, especially younger ones, can't help whispering plans to someone. If that's an unconscious plea to be stopped, all the more reason to detect them.

Two-thirds of shooters had previous signs of mental illness such as paranoia and delusions. And fully a quarter of them had actually been hospitalized or treated with psychiatric drugs.

That's no crime. But if those patients are also targeting neighborhood pets for practice. Posting dreams of homicide. Beating up a girlfriend. That's suspicious.

Devin Kelley had been in trouble for sexual assault, stalking ex-girlfriends, abusing an ex-wife and escaping from a mental ward where he'd been placed for fracturing his infant son's skull.

Yet none of that disqualifying information made it into the database to prevent him from legally acquiring the firearms he used to kill 26 people in a Texas church last November. That doesn't require a law. That requires training.

Parkland school administrators knew of Cruz's behavioral issues so well they expelled him. Local police knew about him from frequent calls. Social workers knew of his troubled life. Mental health counselors too. School friends joked he was a shooter.

Yet he could still pull it off. And police responded by waiting outside the school.

Yes, mental health remains a touchy subject. Better to face it up front don't you think as possible prevention rather than later as a useless explanation for mass murder.

We can argue for empty years over adjusting age limits and other legislation to close gun purchase loopholes or whatever. Fine, go ahead.

But right now we can establish a standardized system for schools, doctors, law enforcement and counselors to safely file confidential reports — and someone to comb the combined data for common patterns that should trip alarms. Remember, this is how the 9/11 hijackers evaded detection — no one saw that all the little pieces actually formed a suspicious pattern.

Potential shooters still have rights, of course. However, so too do school kids, concertgoers, mall shoppers and others going about their lives with a right not to be a target.

These days when we're dumping a successful shooter into a body bag, it's way too late to discover signs of mental illness. And way too late too for all innocent victims in the other body bags.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Don't blame 'Roseanne' for Trump. Funny is funny

By **ANDY REID**
SUN SENTINEL

It's funny to see so many people on Twitter, Facebook and other social media soapboxes taking a stand against a TV sitcom.

Rebooting the popular 1990s sitcom "Roseanne" — about a struggling working class family with an outspoken, gum-smacking matriarch — managed to offend some left-leaning television connoisseurs.

Because Roseanne Barr in real life backs President Donald Trump, and because she also parrots wacky, right-wing conspiracy theories, some say they just can't bring themselves to watch her show.

For them, the updated version of a TV program that was hugely popular when President Bill Clinton was in the White House should be viewed as another Red State vs. Blue State dividing line.

It's too bad. Those tuning out "Roseanne" are missing out on

a show that's smart, funny and not scared to tackle topics that affect both ends of the political spectrum.

Yes, during the revamped show's debut last week Barr's character stuck up for Trump. Yet, she was also mocked by her on-screen sister for falling for Trump's campaign sales pitch.

And despite Barr's support for a president who divides the country with his views on race, homosexuality and the treatment of women, that's not the message viewers get from her new show.

Her fictional family includes a black granddaughter and a grandson who feels more comfortable wearing girls' clothes. It's a family getting left behind by an improving economy and a family struggling to afford health care.

Trump was quick to congratulate Barr on the estimated 18 million viewers who watched the show's relaunch, but — like Barr's critics — the president didn't seem to pay attention to what the show portrayed.

With a reality star president, we should have known TV shows

other than "Meet the Press" would be wading more and more into our national political debate.

Critics of the president could use that to their advantage. Instead of lashing out at "Roseanne," perhaps they could send a political message by launching their own TV reboots.

Still upset about Trump worsening the racial divide? Start filming a revamped "Dukes of Hazard."

Instead of two redneck cousins racing around with a Confederate flag atop their car, today's version could feature a happily married gay couple righting wrongs in a rainbow-flag-adorned Prius.

Or redo Trump's favorite old show, "The Apprentice." Instead of a billionaire firing celebrities vying for his approval, the main character hires undocumented immigrants — for jobs that don't include waiting tables or making beds at a Trump resort.

Even better, keep the "Fox & Friends" hosts, but allow NPR to write everything that goes into the teleprompters.

We can make America great again, one television show at a time.

Fifty years later, King's vision must remain Congress' cause

This week, our nation marks the 50th anniversary of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. Last month, we joined colleagues from both sides of the aisle on the Faith and Politics Institute's annual Civil Rights pilgrimage to pay tribute to King and remember his legacy. Visiting Selma, Montgomery and Memphis on a journey led by our colleague, Civil Rights hero Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, reinvigorated our determination to fight for civil rights and equality in Congress. Standing in Memphis at the site of King's murder imbued us with a sense of responsibility to carry on the work he led.

Though we grew up a generation apart, the legacy of King and the Civil Rights Movement holds a sacred place in our common calling to public service. Such is the power of King's vision and Representative Lewis' determined spirit, which, along with the sacrifices of so many individuals and groups, inspires Americans of every background to work toward completing the unfinished work of the Civil Rights Movement. Both of us entered public service and ran for Congress because of this legacy and this inspiration.

When we visited Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, where King preached, his son Martin Luther King III made clear that, five decades after his father's assassination, our nation has still not fully answered his call for "eternal hostility to poverty, racism and militarism." This mission must be the core of Congress' work.

We still have much to do to protect the voting rights of minorities. The Voting Rights Act (VRA) was a seminal achievement of the Civil Rights movement. After the Supreme Court struck down a key section of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, however, several states have enacted laws — including discriminatory voter-ID laws — resulting in African-American turnout decreasing by 8.6 percent, Latino turnout by 9 percent and Asian-American turnout by 12.5 percent.

Meanwhile, progress on poverty remains dismal. According to a new report, African-Americans are worse off economically according to many key indicators than during the time of the Civil Rights Movement. The black unemployment rate was 7.5 percent last year, compared with 6.7 percent in 1968 — and has held steady at double the white unemployment rate since King's March on Washington in 1963.

Our efforts in Congress must fulfill King's call for a job for everyone who wishes to work, including training for the next generation of jobs. We have a responsibility to invest in schools in black neighborhoods and in historically black colleges and universities. Furthermore, we must address the challenge of drug enforcement disparities and police brutality in black communities.

The militarism King opposed is still on the rise. The current president threatens to draw America into new conflicts, and Republicans in Congress have tried shifting spending to our military budget at the expense of critical domestic priorities. Democrats must continue to stand up for King's legacy by advocating strategic choices abroad and nation-building at home.

At the same time, new fronts have opened in the battle for

By **RO KHANNA**
The Baltimore Sun

Ro Khanna (@RepRoKhanna) is a California Democrat. They wrote this for the Baltimore Sun.



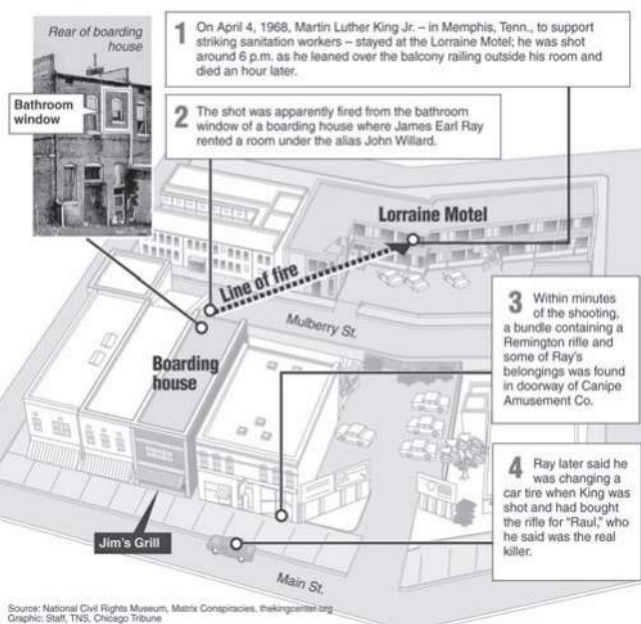
By **STENY HOYER**
The Baltimore Sun

Rep. Steny Hoyer (@WhipHoyer), a Southern Maryland Democrat, is House minority whip.



50th anniversary of MLK's assassination

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated April 4, 1968. Below is a diagram that shows the events surrounding the assassination in Memphis.



SCHOOLS

From Page 10

not being "disruptive" by wearing leggings to school, and it is not their job to prevent boys from being "distracted," an excuse that many a principal has used over the years to place restrictions on clothing. Schools have a right to set dress codes within reason, but pretending that girls are responsible for the behavior of boys sets an unacceptable double standard.

(Then there was the Houston school that threatened kids with three days of suspension if they joined students across the country in walking out of class for 17 minutes in response to the school shootings in Parkland, Fla. That may not have infringed on any constitutional rights, but it was certainly an excessive reaction.)

Even more dicey are situations in which students misbehave off campus. A Bay Area high school rightly disciplined students for being involved in racist posts in which photos of students at their school, all female and almost all people of color, were

civil rights. Young immigrants and DREAMers — such as Maira Velasquez, who joined our pilgrimage — are denied basic rights. Arriving with her parents when she was just four years old, Maira worked hard and is now on her way to law school. But she is prohibited from receiving financial aid and is forced to pay thousands of dollars in fees just to live in the country she calls home.

The Civil Rights movement created the conditions that enabled passage of the 1965 immigration law, which ended racial quotas for those seeking to become Americans. This permitted the parents of one of us to move here and make his story possible, joining those like the other, whose father immigrated to this country in the earlier part of the 20th century. But like many aspects of King's dream, progress has stalled, with an upsurge in xenophobia threatening to excise American values from America's policies.

Ending his sermon in Montgomery, Martin Luther King III called out to each of us, regardless of generation, and said we should measure ourselves by Horace Mann's yardstick: "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity." Congress must be a place where humanity prevails. Together we're going to keep working to carry on the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and his fellow Civil Rights heroes so that our laws and policies reflect the vision of justice, equality and broad access to opportunity for which they sacrificed.

shown with nooses drawn around their necks. These images go beyond expressing opinions or simply being offensive; even though they were created off campus, they are intimidating, if not downright threatening, to people at the school.






But it's difficult to believe that the New Jersey school district mentioned above thought it had the right to regulate students' target shooting off campus under completely legal circumstances. Or that the Nevada school believed it could punish teenagers for using foul language outside of class that was not directed toward anyone at the school.

There are certainly difficult decisions to be made from time to time about free speech on school campuses, but these cases weren't complicated. School officials have a responsibility to keep their students safe and learning on campus, but no one hired them to be the police of controversial personal expression or of student morality.

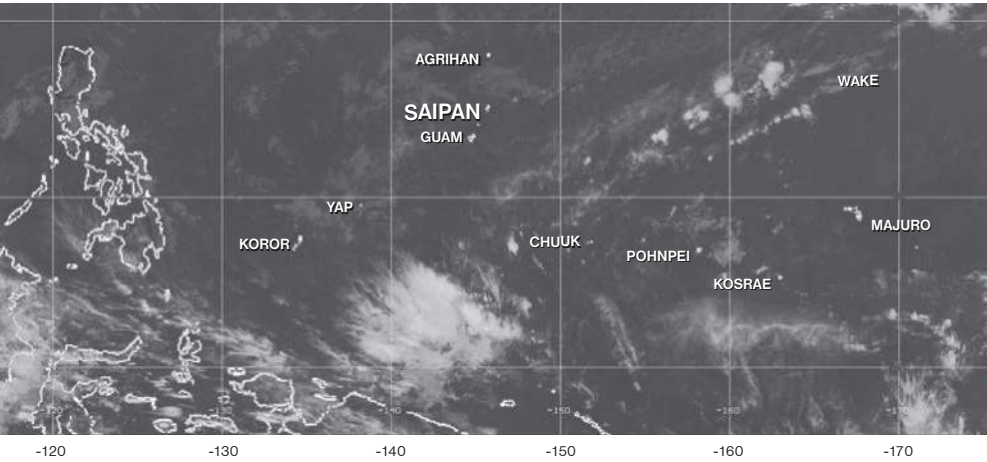
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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:42 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

After the remains of Jelawat and its associated trough have moved out of the area high pressure has built into the area. Northeast trade-winds will prevail across the Marianas today and tonight. Dry air filtered into the area in the wake of Jelawat and will stay a few days. Expect partly cloudy skies and isolated showers through at least Thursday night. Models show an area of trade-wind convergence occurring over the Marianas later in the week and the weekend. This will bring mostly cloudy skies Friday through Monday. Models show at this time that showers should remain isolated through most of this period. The exception could be Saturday night and Sunday as scattered showers may be possible. This may be caused by a weak trough pushing along the trade-wind convergence. The trough could cause a higher chance of thunderstorms Saturday night and Sunday. Did not add in the scattered showers or thunderstorms to the forecast yet as confidence in them occurring or exact timing of these features is not the best.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	72° / 63°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	52° / 34°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°	
Honolulu	Thunderstorm	82° / 73°	
London	Mostly Sunny	54° / 43°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	68° / 55°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	91° / 75°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°	
Miami	Thunderstorm	79° / 71°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	48° / 41°	
Osaka	Rain	72° / 52°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 39°	
Busan	Showers	55° / 54°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	64° / 46°	
Salem	Showers	65° / 40°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	59° / 54°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	54° / 37°	
Tokyo	Windy	72° / 64°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	56° / 46°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:00 AM	LOW TIDE	0.92	
10:08 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.75	
5:20 PM	LOW TIDE	0.09	
-	-	-	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:09 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:34 am	10:41 pm
Friday	-	10:20 am	11:31 pm
Saturday	-	11:07 am	-
Sunday	12:20 am	11:55 pm	-
Monday	1:07 AM	12:44 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1	JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4	JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN	UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Villagers flee with Papua rebels after Indonesia attack

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A commander of rebels in Indonesia's easternmost Papua region said Tuesday that as many as 100 villagers have taken shelter with them in a mountainous jungle following an Indonesian military attack.

The military and Papuan independence fighters have given starkly different accounts of the clashes that began Sunday near the U.S.-owned Grasberg copper and gold mine in the remote region. The number of combatants killed is at least two based on each side's statements.

A National Liberation

Army of West Papua commander, Hendrik Wanmang, said indigenous Papuan villagers, mostly women and children, fled into the jungle after Indonesian soldiers set fire to their homes.

"Their condition is now safe in the jungle with us although they only eat whatever they find in the forest," he said.

The Indonesian military spokesman for the Papua region, Col. Muhammad Aidi, said a joint force of soldiers and police has freed six villages in the mountainous Tembagapura area from separatist control and accused the rebels of burning homes.

An insurgency has simmered in Papua since the early 1960s when Indonesia annexed the region that had remained under Dutch control following Indonesian independence nearly two decades earlier.

The giant gold and copper mine, owned by Freeport-McMoran Inc., is a lightning rod for Papuan grievances. Its rich mineral reserves have been shipped abroad for decades by the U.S. company and provided significant tax income for the Indonesian government. But indigenous Papuans have

benefited little and are poorer, sicker and more likely to die young than people elsewhere in Indonesia.

Tembagapura, a district near the mine, was the scene of a standoff between the military and rebels in November when the military said rebels, which it refers to as an armed separatist criminal group, were holding hundreds of villagers hostage. That claim was denied by the liberation army. Villagers who were migrants from other parts of Indonesia left, but indigenous Papuans remained in the villages.

Aidi said drone observations showed the Indonesian force of 50 had killed two rebel fighters and injured dozens in the "shootout" Sunday.

The rebels "burned some houses before they fled," he said.

Wanmang said 28 soldiers and two of their local guides were killed in the fighting and a 10-year-old boy burned to death after his village was shelled by the military. Both sides deny most of the other's claims.

Wanmang admitted that rebels had earlier burned

down a hospital and a school in the area. He said the hospital was owned by Freeport but did not help Papuans while the school was used by Indonesia to indoctrinate young Papuans.

"We have never and will not burn villagers' houses," he said. "We also strongly deny the TNI (Indonesian military) statement saying that they have managed to free the villages previously held hostage by us. It is not true, since those villages were our villages, our own homeland."

Doctor slams Nauru's rejection of Australian court appeals

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A British doctor who was once based in Nauru said Tuesday that the tiny Pacific nation had proved itself unfit to house refugees by depriving its residents of an appeals court.

Nick Martin worked as a doctor at an Australia-run immigration camp on Nauru in 2016 and 2017 before becoming a vocal critic of the conditions that the estimated 1,000 asylum seekers there endure.

Martin, now a permanent resident of Australia, said Nauru was attempting to avoid outside scrutiny by depriving its own 10,000 citizens as well as the asylum seekers with the option of appealing Nauru Supreme Court decisions to the Australian High Court.

Martin also said the Australia government would welcome asylum seekers on Nauru no longer seeking help from Australia's justice system.

"Nauru has shown itself to be an inadequate place to house refugees, and anything that allows Australia to distance itself from Nauru when it comes to refugees and asylum seekers, Australia will

welcome it," Martin said.

Australia has been hearing Nauru court appeals since 1976.

But Nauru gave its former colonial master 90 days' notice in December that it was ending that agreement.

As a result, the High Court has not been able to hear Nauru appeals since March 13.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said in a statement that her country supported the decision ahead of Nauru celebrating the 50th anniversary of its independence on Jan. 31, 2018.

A Nauru government official could not be immediately contacted for comment on Tuesday.

Australia refuses to resettle refugees who attempt to reach its shores by boat. It pays Nauru and Papua New Guinea to keep them in immigration camps that have been widely criticized by rights groups.

The United States has agreed to accept up to 1,250 refugees from Nauru and Papua New Guinea, and by last month had resettled 200 of them.

Emergency water service interruption for Middle Road, Beach Road areas

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to update the general public of the emergency water service interruption in the Middle Road and Beach Road areas.

Customers in Beach Road and Middle Road should be receiving regular water service hours as scheduled from 6am to 10am. However, customers located north of the Ironwood

Apartments in Middle Road to Subway Gualo Rai will be receiving water service starting today as per regular water service hours. CUC operations personnel are currently completing the necessary repairs and anticipate completion this

evening at 5pm.

For the safety of CUC's men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution when traveling through the area or to take alternative routes as the northbound lane fronting Chong's Refrigeration in Middle Road will be closed.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)



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AVANTI 3.5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER

IGLOO 5 GALLON BEVERAGE COOLER
\$29⁹⁵

\$49⁹⁵ ALPHA GLASS TOP 2 BURNER GAS STOVE

\$13⁹⁵ ALPHA PORTABLE BUTANE STOVE

\$179⁹⁵ DOREL SANTIAGO 5PC DINING SET

\$45⁹⁵ BBQ PRO 22.5" ROUND KETTLE GRILL

\$159⁹⁵ ESSENTIAL HOME BELMONT 6 DRAWER DRESSER

STOR 5 TIER WIRE SHELF
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\$369⁹⁵ SAMSUNG 32" LED TV FULL HD

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\$29⁹⁵ DOREL 3 SHELF BOOKCASE

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\$9⁹⁵ ESSENTIAL HOME TWIN PACK PILLOW 20"X26"

\$45⁹⁵ ALPO 52LBS. DOG FOOD

\$45⁹⁵ KENMORE 18" WALL MOUNT FAN

\$179⁹⁵ LG 5,000 BTU WINDOW AIRCON

\$9⁹⁵ NORTHWEST TERRITORY LIGHTWEIGHT SPORTS CHAIR

\$159⁹⁵ SUCASA 36"X 80" SECURITY DOOR

\$44⁹⁵ EMIRATES 5FTX7FT AREA RUG

\$3⁹⁵ ESSENTIAL HOME 20"X30" CHINDI RUG

\$189⁹⁵ 6PC PATIO SET (INCLUDES 4 CHAIRS, 1 TABLE & UMBRELLA)

\$19⁹⁵ NORTHWEST TERRITORY OVERSIZED CHAIR

\$149⁹⁵ WEIDER 265 BENCH 80LBS VINYL SET

\$139⁹⁵ WESLO PURSUIT E26 EXERCISE BIKE

\$69⁹⁵ CRAFTSMAN FLOOR JACK WITH STAND

\$10⁹⁵ RAY PADULA ECO SPRAY TRIPLE PACK

\$16⁹⁵ STANLEY 19" ESSENTIALS TOOL BOX

\$159⁹⁵ POULAN GAS CHAINSAW

\$199⁹⁵ JOOLA TRYO 4PC TABLE TENNIS

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

RWM nails authentic Filipino hospitality

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

First of four-part series

If you're looking for warm, genuine Filipino hospitality and an unforgettable experience to match for your next getaway, Resorts World Manila is the perfect choice.

The Resorts World Manila is a chain of luxury hotels that pride themselves in their ability to offer beyond 5-star luxury experience, Filipino style.

During the Resorts World Manila Familiarization Tour from March 5 to 10, various media outlets from Guam, Hawaii, and the *Saipan Tribune* were given a taste of what exactly authentic Filipino hospitality really means in RWM's definition.

After a short three-hour flight, fam tour participants jumped straight into RWMs, tour starting at a savory stop.

During the first day of RWM fam tour, representatives were hands-on from the start, catering to your every need, no matter what the need, as Filipinos are known for their nurturing nature.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 2018 Resorts World Manila familiarization tour participants from Saipan and Guam pose for a photo at the Yatai Spa during RWM's fam tour that took place from March 5 to 10.

The fam tour started with a food trip at RWM's newest restaurant, the Manila Live. Manila Live offered basic Filipino finger foods with a twist.

Fam tour guests were served gourmet sisig tacos, sisig rice cups, and kikiam, and more.

Breakfast consisted of small talk among acquainting

strangers and satisfied moans from everyone as dish after dish of mouthwatering food were placed in front of them.

Straight after breakfast, RWM wasted no time. Participants were immediately transported from Manila Live via RWM shuttle to the tour's next stop, Yatai Spa. Yatai claims to be Philippines' largest spa, prides themselves in their four-star spa service, and a proud partner of RWM.

Yatai Spa service director Lorris Lee offered a tour of the luxurious facility. The spa offered nothing but quality ame-

nities as well as services.

The group was able to avail of a few of the spa's services like manicures, pedicures, Chinese massages, stone massages, saunas, a theater, a lounge room, a jacuzzi, and more. The spa also doubles as a hotel where couples or individuals can rent rooms as low as \$40 (over 2,000 Philippine pesos).

After a relaxing spa treat, the group was escorted to one of RWM's newest luxury hotels called Maxims. The hotel was grand with a built-in mall, various restaurants, cafes, a 1,500-person capacity theater,

and more. The hotel is also conveniently placed in Newport where guests have the option to roam the city's streets and visit a variety of local shops.

At Maxim's the media outlets from Guam and the CNMI were escorted by RWM representatives to watch a whimsical live performance of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, a production put on by RWM to entertain their valued hotel guests.

The three-hour production was outstanding, beautifully performed, well prepared, and left the guests wanting more.

After the curtains were closed, RWM brought the media outlets from Guam and CNMI to meet the cast and were welcome to take photos, ask questions, and get autographs.

To end the tour's first day, the fam tour participants were brought to the holiday inn for a presentation dinner. The presentation dinner allowed all the fam tour guests to mix and mingle with one another while throwing back a few glasses of merlot and whiskey, dancing, and singing karaoke, and basically getting acquainted with one another before everyone was checked into their hotel rooms for the night.

For individuals interested in giving Resorts World Manila a try on their next venture to the Philippines, feel free to contact them at (632) 908-8833 or visit their website at www.rwmanila.com for special promotions. Resorts World Manila is conveniently located across the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

From left to right, Guam Cancer Care's executive director Nona Perez, Maryann Arriola from the CNMI Governor's Office, and Power 98 DJ Shimmy Shack pose for a photo in front of the Yatai Spa sign during Resorts World Manila's fam tour that took place from March 5 to 10.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

One of the most popular Filipino dishes, sisig, is served in taco form in Resorts World Manila's Manila Live Restaurant.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 2018 Resorts World Manila familiarization tour participants from Saipan and Guam pose for a photo after the *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* theatrical presentation during RWM's fam tour that took place from March 5 to 10.

Business

US proposes tariffs on \$50B in Chinese imports

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration on Tuesday escalated its aggressive actions on trade by proposing 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese imports to protest Beijing's policies that require foreign companies to hand over their technology.

China immediately said it would retaliate against the new tariffs, which target high-tech industries that Beijing has been nurturing, from advanced manufacturing and aerospace to information technology and robotics.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative issued a list targeting 1,300 Chinese products, including industrial robots and telecommunications equipment. The suggested tariffs wouldn't take effect right away: A public comment period will last until May 11, and a hearing on the tariffs is set for May 15. Companies and consumers will have the opportunity to lobby to have some products taken off the list or have others added.

The latest U.S. move risks heightening trade tensions with China, which on Monday had slapped taxes on \$3 billion

in U.S. products in response to earlier U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports.

"China's going to be compelled to lash back," warned Philip Levy, a senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and an economic adviser to President George W. Bush.

Early Wednesday in Beijing, China's Commerce Ministry said it "strongly condemns and firmly opposes" the proposed U.S. tariffs and warned of retaliatory action.

"We will prepare equal measures for U.S. products with the same scale" according to regulations in Chinese trade law, a ministry spokesman said in comments carried by the official Xinhua News Agency.

The U.S. sanctions are intended to punish China for deploying strong-arm tactics in its drive to become a global technology power. These include pressuring American companies to share technology to gain access to the Chinese market, forcing U.S. firms to license their technology in China on unfavorable terms and even hacking into U.S. companies' computers to

steal trade secrets.

The administration sought to draw up the list of targeted Chinese goods in a way that might limit the impact of the tariffs—a tax on imports—on American consumers while hitting Chinese imports that benefit from Beijing's sharp-elbowed tech policies. But some critics warned that Americans will end up being hurt.

"If you're hitting \$50 billion in trade, you're inevita-

bly going to hurt somebody, and somebody is going to complain," said Rod Hunter, a former economic official at the National Security Council and now a partner at Baker & McKenzie LLP.

Kathy Bostjancic of Oxford Economics predicted that the tariffs "would have just a marginal impact on the U.S. economy" - unless they spark "a tit-for-tat retaliation that results in a broad-based global

trade war."

Representatives of American business, which have complained for years that China has pilfered U.S. technology and discriminated against U.S. companies, were nevertheless critical of the administration's latest action.

"Unilateral tariffs may do more harm than good and do little to address the problems in China's (intellectual property) and tech transfer policies,"

said John Frisbie, president of the U.S.-China Business Council.

Even some technology groups that are contending directly with Chinese competition expressed misgivings.

"The Trump administration is right to push back against China's abuse of economic and trade policy," said Robert Atkinson, president of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation think tank.

Facing heat at home, GOP leaders may rescind some spending

WASHINGTON (AP)—As Republicans run into a buzz saw of conservative criticism over a deficit-expanding new budget, GOP leaders and the White House are looking for ways to undo the damage by allowing President Donald Trump to rescind some of the spending he signed into law just 10 days ago.

Rolling back the funds would be a highly unusual move and could put some lawmakers in the potentially uncomfortable position of having to vote for specific spending opposed by a presi-

dent from their party. But it would also offer Republicans a way to save face amid the backlash over the bill that conservatives, and Trump himself, complain gives too much money for Democratic priorities.

Trump has been talking with House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., about the plan over the past couple of days, according to an aide to the House leader who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private talks. It is not clear how widely the idea has been embraced by other

top Republicans, including House Speaker Paul Ryan or Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, whose offices declined to discuss it.

"There are conversations right now," said Matt Sparks, a spokesman for McCarthy. "The administration and Congress and McCarthy are talking about it."

The idea emerged as lawmakers get hammered back home for the \$1.3 trillion spending package that, while beefing up funds for the military, also increases spending on transportation, child care

and other domestic programs in a compromise with Democrats that Trump derided as a "waste" and "giveaways."

Trump's decision to sign the bill into law, after openly toying with a veto, has not quelled the unrest and may have helped fuel it.

"People are mad as hell about it and mad as hell that they put the president in that situation—that he sign the bill or shut the government down," said Amy Kremer, a founder of the tea party and co-chairman of Women for Trump.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified bidders to submit their bids for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EIGHT (8) A/C UNIT REPLACEMENT, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-18.**

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 5TH, 2018**, at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of replacement of eight (8) air-conditioning units located at the Saipan International Air Terminals. Procurement includes removal and disposal of existing units scheduled for replacement.

The Project is being funded by Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for installation of eight units shall be **TWO HUNDRED TEN (210) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages shall be imposed in the amount of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)** per day if the commissioning of the A/C units is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible," their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-26 of the specifications. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Non-Collusive Affidavit" and "Designation of Subcontractors" as contained in the bid documents, with the submission of the Bid.

Bids and contract documents including specifications may be obtained at the Accounting Department Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, beginning February 23, 2018 upon the payment of **FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

There is no pre-bid conference for this project. Bidders will be responsible for scheduling a site inspection with CPA.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the bid opening.

Each bid shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are encouraged to use the CD bid schedule form. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either bid bond from a CPA approved listed surety company, a certified check or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **ten percent (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:
/s/ EDWARD B. MENDIOLA
Acting Executive Director
Date: March 20, 2018



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR

**AIRPORT GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (AGIS) SURVEY SERVICES
BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-001-18 (AIP Pending)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Airports Geographical Information Systems (AGIS) Services for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

These services are being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and CPA. This service procurement is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, April 13, 2018, 5:00 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Capability to perform all or most aspects of the services with a minimum of three (3) years' experience with AGIS and Airport Improvement Programs. **(WEIGHT 30)**
2. Ability to implement an AGIS Obstruction Survey and Airport Airspace Analysis. **(WEIGHT 20)**
3. Key personnel's professional background and successful relevant experience in AGIS projects comparable to the proposed services. **(WEIGHT 20)**
4. Demonstrated ability to meet AGIS standards, NGS requirements, and Airport Master Plan standards. **(WEIGHT 10)**
5. Ability to complete services within schedule without having major extensions, cost escalations, overruns, or disputed claims; **(WEIGHT 10)**
6. Quality of projects previously undertaken that are comparable to proposed services. **(WEIGHT 10)**

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf format of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: April 3, 2018

Nation

Woman shoots 3, self at YouTube

SAN BRUNO, Calif. (AP)—A woman opened fire with a handgun Tuesday in a courtyard at YouTube headquarters, wounding three people before fatally shooting herself in what is being investigated as a domestic dispute, authorities said.

Terrified employees huddled inside, calling 911, as officers and federal agents swarmed the company's suburban campus sandwiched between two interstates in the San Francisco Bay Area city of San Bruno.

YouTube employee Dianna Arnsperger said she was on the building's second floor when she heard gunshots, ran to a window and saw the shooter on a patio outside.

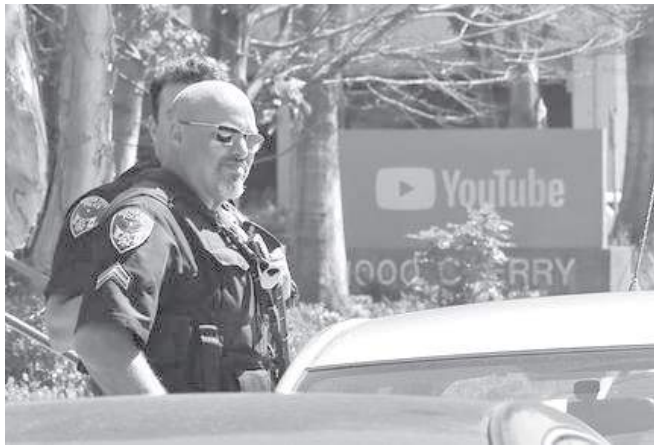
She said the woman wore glasses and a scarf and was using a "big huge pistol."

"It was a woman and she was firing her gun. And I just said, 'Shooter,' and everybody started running," Arnsperger said.

She and others hid in a conference room for an hour while another employee repeatedly called 911 for updates.

"It was terrifying," she said.

Authorities gave few details about the shooter and victims, except that the gunfire was being investigated as a domestic dispute, two law enforcement officials with knowledge of the investigation told The Associated Press. They spoke on



Officers stand in front of a YouTube sign near offices in San Bruno, Calif., Tuesday, April 3, 2018.

the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the probe.

A 36-year-old man was in critical condition, a 32-year-old woman was in serious condition and a 27-year-old woman was in fair condition, a spokesman for San Francisco General Hospital said.

Witnesses described terror before officers arrived and discovered a victim near a front door and then found the shooter several minutes later with what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound, San Bruno Police Chief Ed Barberini said.

He said two additional gunshot victims were found at an adjacent business minutes later. Barberini initially said there were four people who had been shot but later clari-

fied that a fourth person had suffered an ankle injury.

Zach Vorhies, 37, a senior software engineer at YouTube, said he was at his desk working on the second floor of one of the buildings when the fire alarm went off. He got on his skateboard and approached a courtyard, where he saw the shooter yelling, "Come at me, or come get me."

He saw somebody lying nearby on his back with a red stain on his stomach that appeared to be from a bullet wound. Vorhies said he realized there was an active shooter when a police officer with an assault rifle came through a security door.

He said the public can access the courtyard where he saw the shooter during work hours.

said Buchen of the ACLU.

The proposal would open officers who don't follow the stricter rules to discipline or firing, sometimes even criminal charges.

But some in law enforcement called the proposal irresponsible and unworkable.

Officers already use deadly force only when necessary and are taught to try to defuse dangerous situations first when possible, said Ed Obayashi, a Plumas County sheriff's deputy and special prosecutor who trains officers and testifies in court on police use of force.

Tinkering with legal protections for police could make it more difficult to hire officers and be dangerous because they may hesitate when confronting an armed suspect, threatening themselves and bystanders, Obayashi said.

The Peace Officers Research Association of California, which is the largest law enforcement organization in California, released a statement Tuesday calling the proposed changes a "dangerous rush to judgment."

California proposal would limit when officers can open fire

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Several lawmakers and the family of a 22-year-old unarmed black man who was fatally shot by police proposed Tuesday that California become the first state to significantly restrict when officers can open fire.

The legislation would change the standard from using "reasonable force" to "necessary force."

That means officers would be allowed to shoot only if "there were no other reasonable alternatives to the use of deadly force" to prevent imminent serious injury or death, said Lizzie Buchen, legislative advocate for the American Civil Liberties Union, which is among the groups behind the measure.

"We need to ensure that our state policy governing the use of deadly force stresses the sanctity of human life and is only used when necessary," said Assemblywoman Shirley Weber, a San Diego Democrat who introduced the bill. "Deadly force can be used, but only when it is complete-

ly necessary."

The goal is to encourage officers to try to defuse confrontations or use less deadly weapons, said Democratic Assemblyman Kevin McCarty of Sacramento, who is co-authoring the legislation.

"We should no longer be the target practice or victims of a shoot first, ask questions later police force," said Assemblyman Chris Holden, chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus.

California's current standard makes it rare for officers to be charged after a shooting and rarer still for them to be convicted. Frequently it's because of the doctrine of "reasonable fear." If prosecutors or jurors believe that officers have a reason to fear for their safety, they can use deadly force.

The tougher proposed standard could require officers to delay confronting a suspect they fear may be armed until backup arrives or force police to give explicit verbal warnings that suspects will be killed unless they drop the weapon,"

World

China tells North Korea official Beijing supports its US summit

BEIJING (AP)—Senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi told North Korea's foreign minister on Tuesday that Beijing supports the North's planned summits with South Korea and the United States.

The Foreign Ministry cited Wang, China's state councilor and foreign minister, as telling Ri Yong Ho at a meeting in Beijing that China appreciates North Korea's efforts to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

The ministry described Ri as saying that North Korea would maintain close strategic communications with China as outlined at last week's surprise meeting between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and his North Korean counterpart, Kim Jong Un. Kim's visit to China made clear that Beijing, North Korea's only major ally and chief provider of energy

and trade that keeps the country's broken economy afloat, will have a major role in any effort to rein in the North's nuclear program.

Earlier Tuesday, Wang told reporters that China hopes a planned meeting between North Korea and the U.S. would be able to avoid "disruptive factors" and stick to the pursuit of dialogue between Kim and U.S. President Donald Trump.

"Of course, historical experience tells us that when there is an easing in the situation on the peninsula and hopes for peace and dialogue appear, there will often be disturbances of this or that kind," Wang said at a briefing with reporters following a meeting with Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis. "We call on all parties to maintain their determination, eliminate interference, and go

along in the right direction of dialogue and negotiation."

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Ri led a government delegation that left Pyongyang, the North's capital, on Tuesday to take part in a ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement to be held in Azerbaijan and visit Russia.

The meetings between China and North Korea appear aimed at improving both countries' positions ahead of Kim's anticipated meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Trump in the coming weeks.

A key objective for Beijing is to reassert its relevance to the talks, from which it has been excluded. China has appeared increasingly shut out as its relations with North Korea deteriorated and the North reached out to Seoul and Washington.

WORLD BRIEFS

Trump mulls quick US pullout from Syria while advisers balk

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump expects to decide "very quickly" whether to remove U.S. troops from war-torn Syria, saying their primary mission was to defeat the Islamic State group and "we've almost completed that task." Trump's comments, made to reporters at the White House on Tuesday, conflict with views of his top military advisers, some of who spoke at a separate event in Washington about the need to stay in Iraq and Syria to finish off the militant group, which once controlled large swaths of territory in both countries. At a news conference with the presidents of the Baltic nations, Trump was asked whether he still favored pulling U.S. troops out of Syria. "As far as Syria is concerned, our primary mission in terms of that was getting rid of ISIS," Trump answered, using an acronym for the Islamic State group. "We've completed that task and we'll be making a decision very quickly, in coordination with others in the area, as to what we will do." The mission is "very costly for our country and it helps other countries a helluva lot more than it helps us," Trump said.

India withdraws sweeping new rule clamping down on fake news

NEW DELHI (AP)—In-

dia's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Tuesday withdrew a sweeping new order clamping down on journalists accused of spreading fake news. The U-turn came hours after the ministry announced that reporters' press credentials could be suspended simply for an accusation of spreading fake news. The rules, issued by a government often deeply sensitive to media criticism, angered journalists and opposition politicians, who called it an attempt to gag the media in the run-up to national elections expected next year. Several Indian news outlets reported that the initial order, announced late Monday night, was withdrawn on the instructions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who said that issues surrounding fake news should be dealt with by the Press Council of India, a semi-independent press group. On Tuesday afternoon, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued only a terse statement saying that the press release that announced the new guidelines to regulate fake news "stands withdrawn."

Caravan migrants confused by President Trump's angry tweets

MATIAS ROMERO, Mexico (AP)—President Donald Trump's angry comments

about a caravan of migrants ricochet around like a soccer ball in the dusty athletic complex in southern Mexico where the 1,000 or so Central Americans have camped since the weekend. Trump's words have confused and befuddled families here, some of whom never intended on going all the way to the United States after the end of the "Stations of the Cross" caravan. It is a symbolic event held around Easter each year to raise awareness about the plight of migrants and has never left southern Mexico, though some participants then continue north on their own. Even coordinators of the caravan seemed to misunderstand the debate in the U.S. when Trump's endorsed a "nuclear option" for pushing funding for his border wall through Congress. They told worried families Tuesday that the U.S. president had floated the idea of using a nuclear weapon against the caravan of mostly women and children who have fled violence in Central America. Sitting on a thin foam pad and trying to corral her sons, 2-year old Jonathan and 6-year-old Omar, Gabriela Hernandez wondered aloud at what Trump must think of them. "I see it as something really sad, because I don't understand how a child this age can make things difficult for him," said Hernandez, a 27-year-old who is two months pregnant.

Environment

Reefs are dying.

Scientists
hope lab-bred
'super corals'
can help
revive them

AP

The coral restoration team at the Frost Museum of Science is stress-testing coral in the Inventors Lab to make reefs more climate change resilient. The coral is exposed to high lights and high heat bleaching experiments in an effort to boost their thermal tolerance and give them a better chance of surviving rising ocean temperatures.

By JENNY STALETOVICH
MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI—At a shiny new lab atop the new Frost Museum of Science, nine aquariums hold colonies of staghorn corals stressed to the edge of death.

If all goes as planned, the corals will be revived with hardier algae able to survive the planet's warming oceans and replanted during a new field trial—the first ever of its kind—to help save the ailing reef just beyond the downtown Miami museum's picture-perfect view.

The hope is that the corals will be more able to withstand devastating bleaching events now occurring globally at an unprecedented rate, and breathe just enough life into the reef to buy scientists more time to tackle more intractable problems fueled by climate change.

It's an ambitious plan, and a twist on the expanding strategy to save reefs with new breeds of what some have dubbed "super corals." But if it works here, scientists believe it could be a game changer in rebuilding reefs around the world.

"The idea is to boost their thermal tolerance before they get out-planted with the hope we're not just setting up the next set of climate-change victims," said Rivah Winter, a Frost curator and inventor-in-residence at the lab.

The challenge will be getting the corals in the wild to retain their new hardiness and grow fast enough to make a difference, said Andrew Baker, a marine biologist at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric

Science who pioneered the stressing technique.

"The field is a much more complicated situation," he said.

Engineered reefs are nothing new in restoration efforts that have gained urgency with the increase in bleaching events and other coral losses. Since 1998, three global bleachings have decimated reefs, with the last in 2016 killing a third of the Great Barrier Reef. In South Florida, where a disease outbreak also has gripped the only inshore tract in the U.S., back-to-back bleachings struck in 2014 and 2015 for the first time on record.

Bleaching occurs when water temperatures rise and the algae that live inside the coral, which photosynthesize and produce food for the corals, instead produce free radicals that are toxic, Baker said. The corals spit out the algae, starve and die.

But not always, he said. Some recover and go on to thrive.

Coral scientists began identifying those species and using them to seed nurseries with a growing stockpile of more resilient corals. At UM, Baker's colleague Diego Lirman has erected several nurseries with staghorn, which were once the most dominant species on Florida's reef, providing an elaborate framework that made it among the most diverse on the planet. About 90 percent have disappeared. In the Keys, Mote Marine Lab has transplanted 22,000 corals, and in 2016 it struck a 15-year deal with the Nature Conservancy to build gene banks and begin transplanting more than a million in the Keys and the Caribbean.

But Baker worried replanting reefs with the same genotype might

make them susceptible to other threats like disease. What if the algae made the difference?

"It's a very tightly evolved partnership," he said. "The corals have been with these algae for hundreds of millions of years and these algae are critical to understanding why coral reefs even exist in the first place because without these algae, corals can't survive."

In 2004, he looked at bleaching events in Panama, the Persian Gulf and the western Indian Ocean, and found that following the events, specific algae became more dominant.

"The weak link in the partnership is really the algae," he said. "When they get hit with too much heat stress, instead of producing a nice photosynthetic food ... they start producing toxins."

Baker figured out how to mimic bleaching and stress the corals just enough to get them to spew out their algae. Then, before they died, he introduced the hardier algae. Over the summer, to make the process more

efficient, he plans to replicate the stressing in the field by floating the corals on rafts and exposing them to heat and light before planting them.

The project has not been without its hiccups. This fall, Baker and Lirman were preparing to stress and plant corals off Key Biscayne. Then Hurricane Irma hit. Winter was also named one of Frost's first inventors-in-residence after submitting the work for a yearlong research program, but the museum construction fell behind schedule, and the fifth-floor lab got delayed.

Miami entrepreneur Ted Caplow, a former museum board member who donated \$1 million to create the lab, said the project was never part of the troubled construction budget, so it survived.

The lab will be open to museum visitors beginning March 10 — part of its mission is to show science in action. But it's also intended to help put Miami on the map for innovation and showcase the kind of "accelerated adaptation" needed to address

climate change, Caplow said.

"We talk about the rain forest. We talk global warming. We talk about the ozone. All of those are processes are much slower and less urgent than the loss of coral reef," he said. "If this trend continues, coral reefs are just going to be something in the history books for our children and our grandchildren."

Some newly hardened corals have already been replanted off Key Biscayne. Over the summer, when bleaching events are expected to occur, Baker, Winter and a team of reef rescuers will begin planting more between the key and Mid Beach. The corals will be monitored to see if they hold onto the algae, grow fast enough to make a difference and survive bleachings.

"We want to try to tie down both the benefits of doing this and potentially the risks," Baker said, "so that before we scale this up into something really dramatic, we can figure out how best to manage the relative cost-benefit ratio."



AP
The coral restoration team, Rivah Winters, one of the Inventors-in-Residence at the Frost Museum of Science and Curator of aquarium content and marine science, along with Andrew Baker, an associate professor of marine biology and ecology at UM Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science are stress-testing coral in the Inventors Lab at the Frost Museum of Science to make reefs more climate change resilient.

Life & Style

Cosby gets pair of key rulings, but not 'bandwagon' juror

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Bill Cosby's lawyers scored a pair of rulings crucial to their strategy of painting his accuser as a money-grubbing liar, but they could not get the one prospective juror who seemed most willing to consider that idea.

The defense wanted a man who said he thought many of the women coming forward in the #MeToo movement were "jumping on the bandwagon," but prosecutors used a challenge to send him home.

They agreed on six other jurors, bringing the two-day total to seven. They already have eliminated more than 200 potential jurors.

Jury selection continues on Wednesday, with a dozen people invited back for individual questioning as the prosecution and defense look to fill 11 remaining spots. A third batch of 120 potential jurors also is being brought to the courthouse in suburban Philadelphia.

No major rulings are expected after Judge Steven O'Neill opened Tuesday's session by issuing back-to-back decisions favorable to the defense team that tried to force him off the case last month over his wife's work with sexual assault victims.

O'Neill granted the Cosby team's request to call a woman who says accuser Andrea



Bill Cosby, center, leaves hearings for jury selection in his sexual assault retrial with spokesperson Andrew Wyatt, right, Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pa.

Constand talked about framing a celebrity before she lodged allegations against him in 2005. The judge also ruled that jurors can hear how much Cosby paid Constand in a 2006 civil settlement.

Jury selection moved briskly on Tuesday until late in the day, when a second pool of potential jurors proved more opinionated and less willing to serve than the panel that produced the first seven.

Two-thirds of the group said they already had formed an opinion about Cosby's guilt or innocence, and all but about 20 people begged off the case, saying it would be a hardship to serve.

Two of the people who made the cut said they had no knowledge of the Cosby case.

Five of the jurors picked so far are white and two are black, with four men and three women.

Cosby has pleaded not guilty to charges he drugged and molested Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. He says the encounter with the former Temple University women's basketball administrator was consensual.

O'Neill's ruling allowing Marguerite Jackson to testify was at odds with his decision to block her from the first trial, which ended in a hung jury. O'Neill did not explain his change of heart but issued one caveat, saying he could revisit her testimony after Constand takes the stand.

During the first trial, O'Neill ruled that Jackson's testimony would be hearsay after Constand testified she did not know the woman.

Jackson, a longtime Temple University official, has said that she and Constand worked closely together, had been friends and had shared hotel rooms several times.

Since then, prosecutors have told Cosby's lawyers that Constand had modified her statement to acknowledge she "recalls a Margo."

Jackson has said Constand once commented to her about setting up a "high-profile person" and filing a lawsuit.

Constand's lawyer has said Jackson is not telling the truth.

Review: 'Chappaquiddick' examines the ripples of a scandal

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

Ambiguous and damning at once, John Curran's "Chappaquiddick" plunges us back into the summer of 1969: the season of Woodstock, the moon landing, the Manson murders and the lowest ebb of the Kennedy mythology.

It was six years since the assassination of John F. Kennedy and a year since Bobby Kennedy was gunned down. But the Kennedy machine churned on. Jack Kennedy's ambition to reach the moon was being realized by Neil Armstrong. Edward M. ("Teddy") Kennedy, already seven years a senator having filled his brother's Massachusetts seat, was Joseph Kennedy's only living son left and a likely future president.

Those aspirations - and some of the Kennedy dynasty's noble veneer - effectively crashed when 37-year-old Teddy drove an Oldsmobile off a narrow bridge on a remote beach road on Chappaquiddick Island, off Martha's Vineyard, late at night on July

18. With him was 28-year-old Mary Jo Kopechne, a former campaign worker for Bobby Kennedy (played by Kate Mara in the film), who died underwater. Kennedy escaped from the car, submerged in eight feet of water. Whatever his efforts were to free Kopechne, they were futile. It took him 10 hours to report the incident to the police. Kennedy attributed the delay to a concussion and exhaustion.

Chappaquiddick has long loomed in the political imagination as a kind of definitive yet murky scandal. Curran's film—a profile in cowardice, you might call it—is principally an effort to visualize and understand that evening. It's a low-key, generally absorbing if somewhat lackluster procedural that ominously reflects on the darker shadows that loom behind even the brightest shining political hopes.

Jason Clarke, the Australian actor of "Zero Dark Thirty" and "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes," plays Kennedy. We've been so awash in hackneyed Kennedy brogues and caricatured portrayals that Clarke's



Jason Clarke, Kate Mara and Ed Helms, from left, arrive at the premiere of "Chappaquiddick" at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater on Wednesday, March 28, 2018, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

performance—stout, nuanced, understated almost to a fault—is an unexpected relief. His Teddy is a little more taciturn than the statesman was, but Clarke carries himself with the assumed importance and natural magnetism of a Kennedy.

There are Shakespearean shades to the tale. As seen in the opening television interview, Kennedy is acutely aware that he pales in comparison to his late brothers. After the acci-

dent, he lies on the bridge looking up at the moon his brother's astronauts were at that moment approaching. He's hard drinking. His wife and children are nowhere near him. His incapacitated 80-year-old father (Bruce Dern) has the ability to utter few words, as a stroke victim, but he makes each one hurt. "You will never be great," he tells Teddy after the accident. When his son first calls to tell him about

the crash, Joe wheezes only "alibi" and hangs up.

These are elements that make Teddy a sympathetic figure. But "Chappaquiddick," penned straightforwardly by Taylor Allen and Andrew Logan, casts an equally critical eye on him as he launches into full damage control mode. Teddy's own initially wrong-footed efforts at controlling the media storm are quickly corrected by some of the Kennedy family operatives who rush in, including Theodore Sorensen (Taylor Nichols) and Robert McNamara (an excellent Clancy Brown). The smoke-filled room takes command, and Teddy takes his marching orders.

Ed Helms plays Kennedy's cousin and fixer Joe Gargan, who functions like Teddy's conscience, pleading for accountability and truth. But he's batted aside with little trouble. A week after the incident, Kennedy pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of an accident and received a two-month suspended sentence. He addressed the nation in a prime-time broadcast and a year later easily won re-election. But partly if

not entirely because of Chappaquiddick, he would never be president. Kennedy may well have been the front-runner for denying Nixon a second term. His 1980 presidential campaign fizzled.

But Kennedy, of course, went on to serve four more decades in the Senate. He was one of the longest serving, most influential legislators in 20th-century America. So what's the legacy of Chappaquiddick? How are Kennedy's accomplishments to be reconciled with that night? Those aren't questions much pursued in the largely self-contained "Chappaquiddick." Curran, the precise and restrained filmmaker of "The Painted Veil" and "Tracks," is content to let the record speak for itself and perhaps suggest: Some politicians get away with more than they ought to.

"Chappaquiddick," an Entertainment Studios release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "thematic material, disturbing images, some strong language, and historical smoking." Running time: 101 minutes. ★★☆☆

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Altar-bound Meghan Markle to leave TV show with a wedding

NEW YORK (AP)—Real life will imitate art this spring at the USA series "Suits" when series regular Meghan Markle bids farewell to the legal drama in a wedding - and then goes off to marry her prince in real life.

Show creator and show runner Aaron Korsh has written an on-screen wedding for Markle's paralegal-turned-lawyer Rachel Zane, who will finally exchange vows during the April 25 season seven finale with her longtime love Mike

Ross, played by Patrick Adams. The two have been lovebirds for years and had one previous wedding date collapse.

Both actors will then exit the show, which starts filming season eight this month. The wedding will be a sort of dress rehearsal for Markle's real one to Prince Harry at Britain's Windsor Castle on May 19.

"I think we had to do this," said Korsh. "It's something that we owed and had to do. Obviously, I'm so happy for



Memorabilia with a photograph the image of Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are displayed for sale in a shop window in Windsor, England, Thursday, March 29, 2018.

Matthew Morrison, Rachel Bloom headline Florida concert

MIAMI (AP)—Matthew Morrison, Rachel Bloom, Deborah Cox and Wayne Brady will lead several Broadway and TV stars at a benefit later this month to aid victims of the Florida



Bloom

Stoneman Douglas Victims' Fund and Shine MSD, which advocates for arts in the Parkland community.

Others slated to attend are Kirsten Maldonado, Noah Galvin, Justin Gua-

rini, Vincent Rodriguez III, Ephraim Sykes, Erich Bergen, Christy Altomare, Laura Bell Bundy, Telly Leung, Jordan Donica, Donna Lynne Champlin and Gabrielle Ruiz. Several Stoneman Douglas students will speak at the event.

Man who threw banana peel at Dave Chappelle sues comedian

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A man who threw a banana peel at Dave Chappelle during a 2015 performance in Santa Fe, New Mexico, is suing the comedian and a man presumed to be his bodyguard.

Christian Englander's lawsuit filed Friday contends the presumed bodyguard struck Englander twice as he was be-

ing restrained.

Englander, who is white, has said he had no racial motivation when he threw the banana peel at Chappelle, who is black, but was angered by something Chappelle said during the show.

Englander faced charges of battery and disturbing the peace, but they were dropped

because Chappelle was unwilling to participate in the prosecution.

Englander's claim he was assaulted wasn't mentioned in the police report, but his lawyer said it would have been raised if Englander went on trial.

Chappelle's publicist Carla Sims did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

and get creative and invite new characters into your world and explore them."

Korsh said he was thankfully given enough warning that Markle's real-life romance might trigger changes in her character's plotline and he didn't have to scramble to undo anything.

"When you start a show, they definitely don't tell you to anticipate that one of your actors is going to marry a prince. That's just not in the handbook," he said. "But a lot of time, these things kind of force you to open up the box

One new character who joins in season eight will be Katherine Heigl, a veteran of

'Roseanne' wasn't just a hit on its first night

NEW YORK (AP)—"Roseanne" wasn't just a hit on opening night. The revived ABC comedy had legs.

The Nielsen company said Tuesday that viewership for the show's premiere shot up to 25 million people when delayed viewing for the three days after last Tuesday's first showing is added. The increase of 6.6 million people sets a record for the biggest lift ever for a show in the three days after a premiere, Nielsen said. A lot of programs would be happy to get 6.6 million viewers, period.

"Roseanne" was helped by the extent to which it became part of the cultural conversation once its first-night ratings of 18.45 million people were reported, likely drawing in others who were curious about

the fuss. President Donald Trump even congratulated star Roseanne Barr for the success of the show, in which her character supports him politically.

Discussion of the unusually strong "Roseanne" ratings tended to overshadow

CBS' ratings for "60 Minutes" two days earlier, where an interview with adult film star Stormy Daniels about her alleged affair with Trump before he became president reached 22.1 million viewers. Trump has denied her story.



In this March 23, 2018, file photo, Roseanne Barr arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "Roseanne" on Friday in Burbank, Calif.

Man's decision to keep cancer a secret could impact others

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing in response to the man who wants to keep his cancer prognosis secret until he nears the end ("Keeping It to Myself," Jan. 11).

My mother was diagnosed with metastatic lung cancer that had spread to her brain. Her dizziness is how we found out. She didn't want to tell anyone for a while (which surprised me because she had always been a drama queen and a hypochondriac), but she ended up telling. It was the best thing she could have done.

The four of us kids were there with her through her treatments, she became much closer to the sister she had spent decades hating and she found out who her true friends were. Mom lived four years, until she finally passed in 2006. It's still raw for me. But I'm grateful for the time we had to get closer and share our lives.

I hope "Keeping" takes your advice and tells his friends. If he does, he may find these hard times to be some of the "best" times. That's what my mom said.

CLAUDIA IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR CLAUDIA: Thank you for sharing. I opened the question to my readers, and like you, most—but not all—agreed with my answer. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: As a former cancer patient and licensed therapist, I'd urge "Keeping" not to share that information if he doesn't want to. Truth is, not all people who hear the news will be supportive. Some will avoid him, some will pity him, and others will say amazingly inappropriate and unhelpful things. A prognosis of two years is a long time for people to react to

him—and for him to handle their reactions. I found it stressful to cope with the emotions of others as they reacted to my situation. Until "Keeping" is ready, he should be cautious about with whom he shares his diagnosis.

LYN IN NEW YORK

DEAR ABBY: After chemo and clinical trials failed to contain my husband's cancer, he was told he had less than a year to live. We had already shared the initial prognosis with family and friends. Loved ones from near and far have visited him, called and emailed. Their visits have done more for his quality of life than any drug, and have probably extended it.

He has also made once-in-a-lifetime trips this past year with siblings, which would not have happened if we had waited to disclose his prognosis. Our adult children and grandchildren have spent more time with us and have become more loving and tolerant of each other. "Keeping's" next two years are a blessing and a gift. I hope he uses every moment wisely.

DEBRA IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: I was in the same situation and, for me, it was not even a choice. I felt I had to tell everyone in our circle. The result was a warm outpouring of support and concern, even from neighbors we barely knew, which particularly helped my wife.

I have been very fortunate. My new treatment worked, I am now in remission, and we no longer need day-to-day support. But we have wonderful memories of people who were eager to help. We have established deeper friendships and the experi-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



ence has made US more generous, too.

MIKE IN OREGON

DEAR ABBY: Your advice was spot-on. My mother was in stage 4 pancreatic cancer and refused to let me tell anyone, even her siblings. When she died, it was my responsibility to spread the news, only to be berated by everyone who loved her. Relatives and close neighbors were devastated that they hadn't been able to have a final visit or the chance to prepare themselves for the loss.

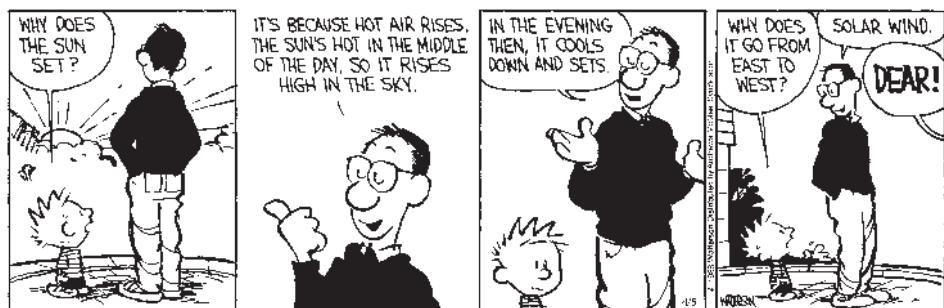
LISA IN CALIFORNIA

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



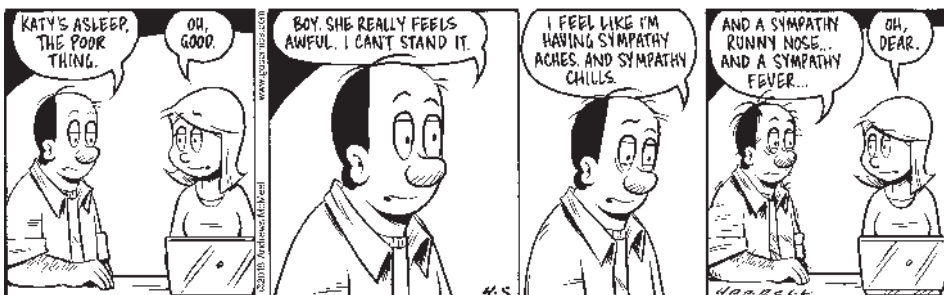
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

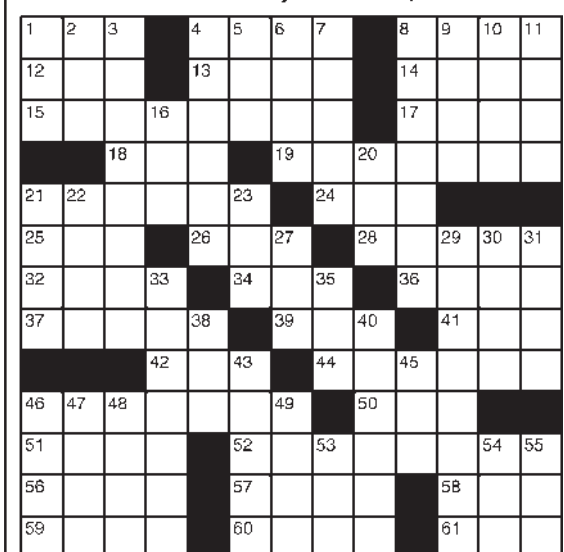
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sweetie
4 Catch sight of
8 Spiced tea
12 Half of dos
13 Scrabble piece
14 Ham-burger holder
15 Arm of the Atlantic
17 Morays
18 — tai
19 Place of peace and quiet
21 Collar stiffener
24 Fanatic
25 Barn bird
26 Tofu source
28 One over par
32 Leslie Caron film
34 La —, Bolivia
36 Valentine flower
- DOWN**
- 1 Attila, notably
2 Lennon's lady
3 As a rule
4 Morals
5 Bro's sib
6 Entreaty
7 Long
8 Inventive type
9 Tackled weeds
10 "That's — ask"
11 "Casa-blanca" role
16 Sailor
20 Young lion
21 Only
22 Tiny branch
23 Short trip
27 Chatter
29 Head of state?
30 Jacob's twin
31 Kennel cry
33 Apple products
35 Use a taser
38 Light brown
40 Wind-shield cleaners
43 Monster slain by Hercules
45 Pod veggie
46 Blue material?
47 Days gone by
48 Kvetches
49 Cat call
53 West of Hollywood
54 Ump's call
55 Grafton's — for Ricochet

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-5



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pharell Williams, 45; Mike McCready, 52; Mitch Pileggi, 66; Agnetha Faltskog, 68.

Happy Birthday: Keep your facts straight and dig deep if you don't trust what someone is telling you. Accuracy and truth will count this year, whether dealing with personal or professional matters. Using legitimate information to get your point across will make it easier for you to overcome any negativity or opposition you face this year. Do your own thing. Your numbers are 8, 15, 21, 23, 27, 35, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Size up a situation and set your course. Showing consistency as well as understanding and insight regarding solutions will impress even your most aggressive opponent. Not getting trapped in someone else's dilemma or sideshow will help you avoid unwanted controversy. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The less information you share with others, the better. Learn by showing interest and letting others reveal opinions and knowledge that can help you make wise choices. The more you know about others, the greater the control you will have. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A partnership looks inviting. Brainstorming with someone you've done business with in the past, and who has as unique an outlook as you, will lead to optimum results. Put everything in writing and lay down some ground rules before moving forward. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Getting along with people you deal with every day is key to forming good connections

that can benefit you when you need a favor. Troubled relationships will lead to an ongoing feud. Know when to cut ties. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Business trips, meetings and collaborating with people you share similarities with will encourage you to make smart choices. A change in the workplace or where you reside will lead to an unexpected opportunity. Welcome new beginnings and friendships. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Business and networking events will prove interesting and lead to valuable insight into new and exciting opportunities. Don't let anyone close to you use emotional tactics to discourage you from following your dream. If you want something, go after it. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Spend quality time with someone who motivates you. Sharing information and plans for the future will encourage you to make positive changes at home as well as to your relationship. An older relative will need your help. ★★★★★

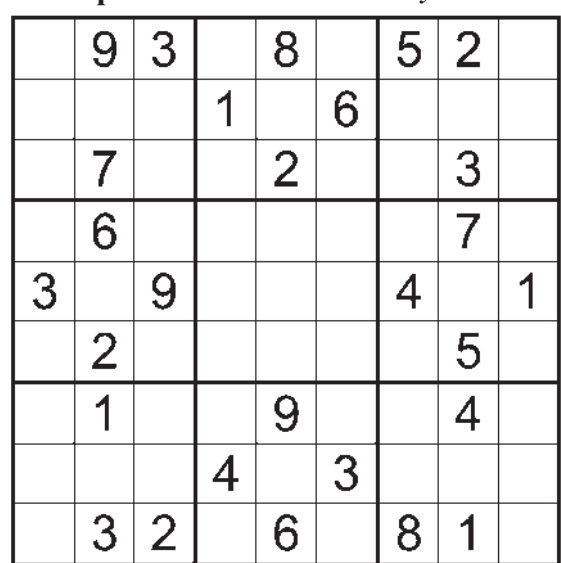
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Aim for greater security and stability. Look for a position that honors what you have to contribute, and put your best foot forward. Being unique and offering something that will make a difference will be satisfying and energizing. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be judged by how you handle situations. Step up and make a difference at home, work or when dealing with anyone you encounter. Having a positive attitude and being willing to lend a helping hand are encouraged. ★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

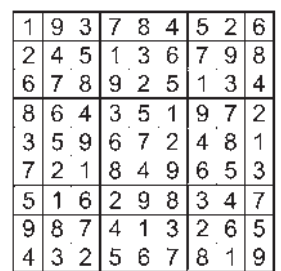


Difficulty Level ★★

4/5

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

4/5

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone pushing you to make a contribution to something you know little about will mislead you. Get the lowdown before you commit to anything that requires more than you are willing to offer. Deal with problems at home before helping outsiders. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): What you contribute you will get back. Putting in an honest day's work and sharing your ideas with people with similar goals will bring good results. A moneymaking opportunity looks promising. A professional move or advancement is apparent. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may think you know best or someone may allude to knowing more than you, but in the end, be sure to do your own research and sit tight until you are sure you aren't going to face a loss. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, compassionate and playful. You are observant and forceful.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

OH, FRITTERS! Solution: 6 letters



© 2012 Arcs and Mosaic Syndication www.wonderword.com 4/5

Apple, Baking, Batter, Bowl, Breeding, Cook, Corn, Crab Cake, Deep Fried, Diet, Dipping, Donut, Drain, Egg, Filled, Gorgonzola, Hawker, Herbs, Kalameres, Kuku, Maruya, Meat, Milk, Oil, Oncom, Onion, Ooze, Pakora, Pan Fried, Pork, Rice, Round, Seafood, Snack, Spam, Sweet Potato, Tempeh, Tempura, Tokneneng, Twigim, Vegetable, Wheat Flour, Whitebait, Zucchini

Yesterday's Answer: I Have a Dream
To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

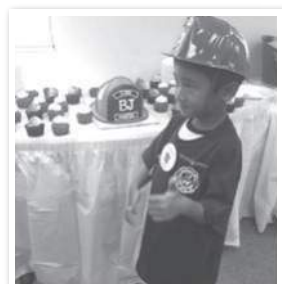
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AMENDED

Closing Date: April 20, 2018

The Commonwealth Casino Commission (“Commission”) needs immediate recruitment for the following positions:

POSITION	DIVISION	SALARY RANGE	ANNOUNCEMENT NO.
1. COMPLIANCE AGENT	Compliance	\$32,000 - \$37,000	CCC-2018-A
2. PERMIT & LICENSING OFFICER	Permit & Licensing	\$27,000 - \$32,000	CCC-2018-B

- **Salary:** Actual salary level will depend on the applicant's education, experience, and other related qualifications.
- **Location:** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").
- **Benefits:** Basic CNMI government employment fringe benefits.
- **Exempted Positions:** These positions are exempted from the CNMI Civil Service system per P.L. 18-56 & P.L. 19-24.

Requirements:

- A. Completed CNMI Government Application for Employment (OPM-03) - Original**
B. Resume with accompanying educational and professional credentials & documentations
C. Police Clearance (within the last 3 months)
D. Copy of your Driver's License or other form of Valid Identification with photo

Education and training claimed under items 24 (A) through (H) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is an equal employment opportunity employer. The CCC's EEO policy is to ensure that all employment decisions are made on a non-discriminatory basis, and without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or belief, or any other status protected by applicable national, federal, state or local law. Please be informed that prior to a job offer, you are required to undergo a pre-employment drug test pursuant to the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy, Part V.C. of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations. The Casino Commission may also require additional criminal background checks and investigations if deemed necessary.

Application Forms can be picked up at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). For information on the **POSITION DESCRIPTION** and other requirements, please contact the HR Officer, Ms. Juanette LG. Sablan at 233-1857/58 or at info@cnmicasinocommission.com. Interested persons should submit their completed Employment Application Forms along with supporting documents to the **Commonwealth Casino Commission's Office at Springs Plaza (Unit #13 & #14), Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950**.

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Ronaldo scores stunner as Madrid beats Juventus

TURIN, Italy (AP)—Cristiano Ronaldo latest masterpiece was so good even the opposing fans had to stand up and applaud.

Ronaldo pulled off a spectacular overhead kick to score his second goal of the night on Tuesday as his Real Madrid beat Juventus 3-0 in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal. Even by Ronaldo's record-breaking standards, this one was special.

Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon had just pulled off a fantastic save to deny Lucas Vazquez but the move continued and Ronaldo leaped acrobatically into the air to meet a cross with his back to goal and smashed the ball into the bottom right corner.

Even the Juventus fans rose to give him an ovation, having jeered his every touch previously. And Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane, himself considered one of the best players in history, clutched his head in amazement.

"Cristiano is simply a different player than all the others," Zidane said. "He shows that every time. He always has a great desire to do great things in the Champions League, he never gets tired of doing what he does. ... I'm the coach but also a fan. That's why I put my hands on my head."

Ronaldo had also scored the opening goal just three minutes into the game, and he later set up the third for Marcelo as Madrid took a commanding lead back home for the second leg.



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after he scored during the Champions League, round of 8, first-leg soccer match between Juventus and Real Madrid at the Allianz stadium in Turin, Italy, Tuesday, April 3, 2018.

In the process, the Portuguese star became the first player in Champions League history to score in 10 successive matches.

"There are two teams better than anyone and they are those that have (Lionel) Messi and Ronaldo," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said. "They have won 10 Ballons d'Or in 10 years, they have been the Champions League's top goalscorers for 10 years."

"For that reason Real Madrid and Barcelona have the advantage."

Juventus now has a near-impossible task to turn the quarterfinal around against the two-time defending champions in the return leg on April 11, after falling to their first home defeat in the Champions League since April 2013.

"You never know in football," Allegri said. "We have to prepare it in the best way possible because it's a quarterfinal and everyone will be watching us."

Sevilla also lost at home in the night's other quarterfinal, as Bayern Munich came from behind to win 2-1. Jesus Navas' own goal cancelled out Pablo Sarabia's opener and Thiago Alcantara headed in the winner for Bayern in the 68th minute.

In Turin, Juventus was out for revenge after losing the final 4-1 to Madrid last year. But Ronaldo once again came out on top.

The Portuguese forward has scored in every Champi-



ons League match this season and it took him less than three minutes to continue that tradition, thanks in part to a series of uncharacter-

istic defensive mistakes from Juventus.

New Woods at Augusta, with Mickelson along for ride



AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—

The power off the tee and the sharpness with his short game made him look like the Tiger Woods of old. The smile on his face and the company he kept Tuesday at the Masters—a practice round with Phil Mickelson—suggested someone entirely different.

Woods and Mickelson had not played together at Augusta National since 2009, and even then it wasn't by choice. They were paired in the final round, and while neither won the green jacket, Lefty shot 67 and got him by one shot.

This time they were partners, and it wasn't a fair fight against Fred Couples and Thomas Pieters.

Never mind that Mickelson hit his opening tee shot at No. 10 behind a magnolia tree. Unlike that failed four-somes match they played at Oakland Hills in the 2004 Ryder Cup, Mickelson had to play the next shot, too.

The two loudest roars that shattered the morning calm came from Woods making eagle on the two par 5s at No. 13 and No. 15.

"I made a few birdies in there," Mickelson said. "We had a five-hole stretch. We were 7 under. That was some fun play."

This was only a snapshot, and it received far more attention because of the stage at Augusta National and the two leading characters. Woods and Mickelson have been longtime rivals, rarely friends and hardly ever partners.

But it's not just with Mickelson.

Woods has become a mentor to Justin Thomas, Jason Day and Rickie Fowler among other youngsters. Long respected by his peers as the greatest player of his generation, he now has formed relationships with them. Pádraig Harrington hardly recognized Woods at Torrey Pines earlier this year when he saw him walk onto the range, exchange a few high-fives and stop to chat.



ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—

Shohei Ohtani hit his first major league home run in his first Angel Stadium at-bat, helping the Los Angeles Angels beat the Cleveland Indians 13-2 on Tuesday night.

Ohtani capped a six-run first inning with a three-run drive to center off Josh Tomlin (0-1). The Japanese two-way player got the silent treatment from teammates when he returned to the dugout, but not from the crowd. After players broke character and jumped around Ohtani to celebrate, Mike Trout pointed to the field and instructed Ohtani to take a curtain call.

Trout, Justin Upton, Luis Valbuena and Rene Rivera also homered for the Angels, who broke a 12-game losing streak to the Indians. Garrett Richards (1-0) got the win.

Jose Ramirez hit a two-run home run in the first for the Indians.

Brewers 5, Cardinals 4

In Milwaukee, Christian Yelich and Ryan Braun hit consecutive homers off Dominic Leone with two out in the ninth, sending Milwaukee to the win.

Ohtani hits first homer as Angels pound Indians

Leone (0-1) retired the first two batters, but then lost Yelich on a 2-2 pitch before Braun whacked the next one for his fourth career game-ending homer.

Astros 10, Orioles 6

In Houston, Josh Reddick hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning and a grand slam in Houston's five-run seventh.

Reddick, who was 1 for 11 this season before his homer in the sixth, tied a career high with six RBI. It was his first multihomer game since 2014 and No. 7 overall.

Yankees 11, Rays 4

In New York, Didi Gregorius hit a pair of three-run homers and drove in a career-high eight RBI, and the Yankees won Aaron Boone's chilly first home opener as manager.

Gregorius had four hits and walked, setting a major league record for RBI by a player in a home opener. He also set a Yankees record for RBI by a shortstop.

Padres 8, Rockies 4

In San Diego, rookie Christian

Villanueva hit three impressive home runs and drove in five runs, and the Padres became the last team to get its first victory of 2018.

The 26-year-old Villanueva joined Hunter Renfroe as the only Padres rookies to hit three homers in a game.

Diamondbacks 6, Dodgers 1

In Phoenix, Arizona's Daniel Descalso and David Peralta became the first left-handed teammates to homer off Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw in the same game.

It's just the fourth time Kershaw (0-2) has allowed two homers to left-handed hitters in the same game—the previous were multihomer efforts by Washington's Adam Dunn, Colorado's Carlos Gonzalez and Cincinnati's Jay Bruce.

Braves 13, Nationals 6

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman and Preston Tucker each hit a three-run homer, and Atlanta handed Washington its first loss.

Freeman and Tucker each delivered a big blow as Atlanta

scored four times in each of the first two innings. Tucker's drive in the first against A.J. Cole (0-1) reached the restaurant behind the right-field seats, and Freeman cleared the wall in right-center in the second.

Red Sox 4, Marlins 2

In Miami, Hanley Ramirez hit a two-run double with two out in the 13th inning, and another night of stingy pitching helped Boston extend its winning streak to five games.

Mookie Betts singled with one out in the 13th off Tayron Guerrero (0-1) and advanced on a groundout.

Mets 2, Phillies 0

In New York, Mets right-hander Matt Harvey allowed one hit over five sharp innings in his encouraging season debut.

With most seats empty in the 40-degree mist and chill, a healthy-looking Harvey gave the Mets reason to believe he can rebound this year from two terrible seasons interrupted by injury.

Blue Jays 14, White Sox 5

In Toronto, Josh Donaldson and Aledmys Diaz each hit a two-run homer, helping Toronto to its fourth consecutive victory.

Donaldson went 2 for 4 with three RBI. Diaz had three hits before leaving after six innings because of back spasms.

Rangers 4, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Texas ace Cole Hamels struck out 11 in five innings, and Joey Gallo hit his 50th home run in 204 games.

The Rangers ended a three-game losing streak this season and a nine-game skid at the Coliseum.

Hamels (1-1) bounced back from a rough start on opening day, allowing one run and four hits.

Mariners 6, Giants 4

In San Francisco, Mitch Haniger hit a two-run single, helping the Mariners spoil the Giants' home opener.

Seattle's Marco Gonzales (1-0) allowed three runs and six hits in 6 1/3 innings. Edwin Diaz got three outs for his third save.

Durant fires 34 to help Warriors top Thunder



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The standings indicated Golden State had nothing to play for Tuesday night.

The Warriors' effort and performance said otherwise.

Kevin Durant scored 34 points while being booed throughout the game, leading Golden State to a 111-107 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder.

The Warriors entered the night locked into the No. 2 spot in the Western Conference standings, but they still wanted to beat a rival that had taken two of the first three meetings this season. Golden State won despite guard Stephen Curry missing his sixth straight game with a left MCL sprain. Guard Andre Iguodala missed the game with left knee soreness and Shaun Livingston was out for personal reasons.

"It was a great win, short-handed and on the road against a good team fighting for playoff position," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "It's a hell of a win, especially without all our guards."

Russell Westbrook had 44 points and 16 rebounds. He made 15 of 26 field goals and 11 of 12 free throws and had six assists. The Thunder were disappointed that they couldn't support Westbrook's dynamic performance.

"He was great," said Paul George, who scored 20 points. "He was great. He took it to another level—a level that those guys didn't have an answer for. Again, it's frustrating when we see that, we notice that and we can't help him by making shots and putting the ball in the basket."

Cavaliers 112, Raptors 106

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 27 points, the last coming on a sensational layup, and the Cleveland Cavaliers gave the Toronto Raptors another reminder of what could lie ahead in the playoffs with a victory on Tuesday night.

James added nine rebounds, six assists and helped put the Raptors away down the stretch with an artistic three-point play.

It was Cleveland's second win in two weeks over the Eastern Conference's top team, whose lead over second-place Boston continues to shrink.

Heat 101, Hawks 98

In Miami, Hassan Whiteside's tip-in with a minute left put Miami up for good, Josh Richardson blocked a potential go-ahead shot in the final seconds and Heat clinched their 20th playoff spot in 30 seasons by rallying to beat Atlanta.

The Heat trailed 98-90 with



less than 3 minutes left, then finished the game on an 11-0 run.

Tyler Johnson's 3-pointer got Miami within one, and Whiteside tipped in Josh Richardson's miss on the next possession.

Rockets 120, Wizards 104

In Houston, James Harden had 38 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, leading Houston over the Washington

At 63-15, the Rockets already clinched home-court advantage throughout the playoffs, but weren't interested in losing any momentum against Washington.

Clint Capela had 21 points and 10 rebounds for Houston,

while Gerald Green had 16 points off the bench on 4-of-8 shooting from beyond the arc.

76ers 121, Nets 95

In Philadelphia, J.J. Redick scored 19 points and Ben Simmons had 15 points and 12 rebounds to lead Philadelphia to its 11th straight victory.

Neither Simmons nor Redick played in the fourth quarter for Philadelphia, which won its third consecutive contest without All-Star center Joel Embiid. Embiid had surgery on Saturday after suffering an orbital fracture in his left eye in Wednesday's 118-101 win over the Knicks.

Bucks 106, Celtics 102

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 29 points and had a key block with 53 seconds left, Khris Middleton added 20 points and Milwaukee held off short-handed Boston.

Eric Bledsoe added 18 points on 8-of-9 shooting for the Bucks, who clinched their second straight winning season for the first time since back-to-back finishes over .500 in 1999-00 and 2000-01. One more win clinches a second consecutive postseason berth for Milwaukee.

Bulls 120, Hornets 114

In Chicago, Lauri Markkanen scored 24 points and Sean Kilpatrick added 21 off the

bench to lead Chicago over Charlotte.

Justin Holiday had 19 points and Bobby Portis added 16 for Chicago, which has won three straight.

Dwight Howard scored 23 points and Malik Monk had 21 for Charlotte, which has dropped four straight.

Mavericks 115, Trail Blazers 109

In Dallas, Dennis Smith Jr. scored 18 points, including a highlight-reel dunk to help keep lottery-bound Dallas ahead in a win over Portland, delaying the Trail Blazers' hopes of clinching home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant, center, shoots between Oklahoma City Thunder center Steven Adams, left, and forward Paul George during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, April 3, 2018.

A hodge-podge lineup kept the Mavericks in front in the fourth quarter, with Maxi Kleber giving them their biggest lead at 104-94 on a 3-pointer with 3:13 remaining.

Nuggets 107, Pacers 104

In Denver, Nikola Jokic scored 30 points, Jamal Murray hit a clutch 3-pointer late — his only one of the game — and Denver received a boost to its playoff hopes by holding off Indiana.

Denver pulled within a half-game of New Orleans for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

What's more, the Nuggets now trail Minnesota by a game for the seventh spot and have two of their final four games against the Timberwolves.

Jazz 117, Lakers 110

In Salt Lake City, Ricky Rubio scored 31 points on 10-of-15 shooting, added eight assists and six rebounds, and Utah beat Los Angeles.

Donovan Mitchell added 26 points while Rudy Gobert chipped in 12 points, 16 rebounds and five assists. Six players scored in double figures to lead the Jazz to their third straight win.

Suns 97, Kings 94

In Phoenix, Josh Jackson scored 18 of his 28 points in the first half and Phoenix ended a franchise-record, 15-game losing streak with a victory over Sacramento.

Alex Len added 17 points and 15 rebounds, and Tyler Ulis had 13 points and nine assists as the Suns held the cold-shooting Kings to 37 percent shooting.

The Kings trailed by as many as 12 in the fourth quarter but had a chance to tie after forcing a turnover with 7 seconds remaining.

Magic 97, Knicks 73

In New York, Mario Hezonja scored 19 points, Jamel Artis added 16 off the bench, and Orlando beat New York.

Reserve Shelvin Mack had 12 points and Nikola Vucevic had 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Magic, who snapped a three-game losing streak.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 16 points and Kyle O'Quinn had 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Knicks, who lost their fourth straight.

General managers plotting Leonard trade inquiries

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The Spurs reportedly quickly shot down any attempts to trade for Kawhi Leonard before February's trade deadline.

But, with San Antonio and Leonard still at an impasse, other teams will try again this summer.

This is just due diligence by other teams. When healthy, Leonard—just 26—is one of the NBA's best player. He's a terrorizing defender, and he has become an elite one-on-one scorer. Every team should want him.

Including San Antonio.

As bad as this situation looks now, the Spurs have a

habit of working these things out. It's far from a given, but Gregg Popovich knows how to communicate with players.

Leonard will be eligible this offseason for a super-max contract extension, which projects to be worth about \$219 million over five years. If he waits until 2019 free agency, the most he could get from another team projects to be about \$139 million over four years.

The Spurs might not offer the extension. Leonard could still get the super max in free agency if he makes an All-NBA team or wins Defensive Player of the Year

or MVP next season. Even without Leonard winning one of those honors, San Antonio will hold a financial advantage, being able to offer him a projected \$188 million over five years.

But if the Spurs offer the extension this summer and Leonard rejects it, that'd speak volumes to his intent. At that point, trade talk will shift into overdrive.

For now, these other teams seem like dreamers. Nothing wrong with that, but it means only so much.

In Minneapolis, the Minnesota Timberwolves have been stumbling down the

stretch, trying to hold on long enough for the franchise's first postseason appearance in 14 years.

Jimmy Butler might be back just in time.

The All-Star shooting guard, whose fearlessness with the ball and tenacity defending it has been badly missed by the team, told reporters after practice on Tuesday that he's "this close" to being back on the court.

Butler was a full participant in the workout, coach Tom Thibodeau said, and his surgically repaired right knee would be evaluated again on Wednesday.

Twin wins for 670 Sonics in Diaz youth caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 670 Sonics and 670 Sonics XVIII recorded contrasting victories in the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the boys U15 division, the 670 Sonics withstood the RT Law NMI Rollers' repeated comeback bids to eke out a 46-39 win last Tuesday, while the 670 Sonics XVIII cruised past the Chinatown Titans in their boys U18 match last Monday, 64-30.

The 670 Sonics XVIII broke away in the third period to set up the 34-point winning margin. Already up by a baker's dozen at the break, 33-20, 670 Sonics XVIII pounced on the hapless Titans in the third period for a commanding 52-

29 advantage.

Sean Apasan and June Ali-pio did the damage for the 670 Sonics XVIII in the pivotal third period after scoring 6 points apiece, while Jude Tengco chipped in 4. Tengco ended up top-scoring for the 670 Sonics XVIII with his 12 markers, while Apasan also finished in twin digits after tallying 11.

Meanwhile, in the boys U15 game, the 670 Sonics showed poised in the homestretch to beat the RT Law NMI Rollers.

The 670 Sonics lost a double-digit lead, 36-31, with a little over four minutes left, but after wakeup call from coach Zachariah Johnson, the squad answered with an 8-0 scoring run to take the fight out of the RT Law NMI Rollers. A put-back from John Rizo started

the short rally and he hit another shot inside the paint, while Dan Puri and Brayn Bernardo contributed one field goal each to bring their lead back to twin digits, 44-31.

The RT Law NMI Rollers then made one final push, scoring 6 straight points off the 670 Sonics' errors, but ran out of time, as they knocked in their baskets with less than a minute left in the game.

The RT Law NMI Rollers had to mount a comeback in the second half after falling behind by as much as 14, 30-16 early in that period. Ervin Villarin then scored 5 consecutive points to bring the deficit to single digit, 21-30, down to the halfway mark of the second half.

However, Bernardo countered with back-to-back baskets to widen the gap anew before the RT Law NMI Roll-

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A 670 Sonics player, right, is pressured by RT Law NMI Rollers defenders during the second half of their boys U15 division game in the Diaz youth caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ers fought back anew, but fell short in the end.

Francisco and Bernardo recorded 12 and 10 points for the 670 Sonics, while Villarin led the RT Law NMI Rollers with his 16 markers.

Boys U15

670 Sonics 46 — Francisco 12, Bernardo 10, Rizo 6, Kim 6, Caruana 4, Galang 4, Junior 4.

RT NMI Rollers 39 — Villarin 16, Kapwich 10, Torres 4, Cruz 3, Factor 3, Castro 2, Salas 1.

Scoring by halves: 22-14, 46-39.



Solid batting keeps Bears in contention

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four players from the Chalan Kanoa Bears are among the batting leaders in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League with A.J. Lizama claiming the top ranking based on the latest statistics released by the organizers.

The Bears (5-2) have won three straight games after a 14-4 loss to the defending champion Aces last March 9 to stay behind the unbeaten GSM (7-0)

A. J. logged a batting average of .586 to lead the individual standings as of April 2. He also had 12 RBIs to tie Franco Nakamura for the top spot. He was among the three players

that had already hit a home run, joining Brian Camacho and Shane Yamada on the list.

Angel Palacios was at close second in the batting leaders with .583, while Henry Lizama, A.J.'s cousin, is ranked third with .579. Byron Kaipat of GSM (.563) and the Falcons' J.J. Lifofoi (.529) complete the Top 5.

GSM's Jerome Delos Santos (.519), the Mariners' Pat Tenorio (.500) and Yamada (.484), the Bears' Kiku Lizama (.480), Titanium's Juan Tenorio (.478), and the Mariners' Ton Tenorio (.458) also made the batting leaders list.

Nakamura leads in runs

scored category with 18, followed by the 17 of Lorenzo Sebaklim, while Ton Tenorio and Peter Lieto have 13 apiece, and A.J. Lizama and Delos Santos have 12 each.

Delos Santos currently has four doubles, while Kiku Lizama, Frankie Norita, Lamar Iguel, and Ton Tenorio have three each. Kier Agda has the most triples with four, while Yamada, Nakamura, Camacho, Jose Lizama, and Pat Alepuyo have three apiece.

Delos Santos and Yamada are tied for second in RBIs with 10 apiece, while Agda, Ian Norita, Henry Lizama, Pete Tomokane, and Virgil Secharmidal have eight each.

Meanwhile, Kevin Kapileo and Keoni Kaipat are still GSM's 1-2 punch when it comes to pitching as they both have 0.00 ERAs—the same record Franco Flores and Kiku Lizama have. Nate Camacho and Dung Tenorio have 1.00 and 1.61 ERAs. Noel Cabrera (1.95), Kainoa Wanket (2.45), Joe Guerrero (2.65), Frankie Lieto (2.79) are the other players on the pitching leaders list.

Frankie Lieto has the most strikeouts with 24, followed closely by Noel Cabrera and Kevin Kapileo with 23 and 22, respectively. Jobi Reyes and Jose Lizama have 13 each, while Nate Camacho and Peter Lieto have 12 apiece.

Patriots trade deep threat Cooks to Rams for 1st-round pick

BOSTON (AP)—Tom Brady is losing one of his top receivers, and Jared Goff is getting a speedy new target.

The New England Patriots traded receiver Brandin Cooks to the Rams on Tuesday for Los Angeles' first-round draft pick, the 23rd overall.

New England also sent a fourth-round choice to the Rams, and the Patriots got a sixth-rounder from Los Angeles.

The 24-year-old Cooks had 65 catches for 1,082 yards and seven touchdowns in his only season with the Patriots. His receiving stats were second on the defending AFC champions' roster only to tight end Rob Gronkowski, who barely topped Cooks in all three categories.

Cooks' clear chemistry with Brady makes the trade fairly surprising for New England, particularly after the recent departure of another favorite Brady target, Danny Amendola,

who signed with the Dolphins.

But the defending NFC West champion Rams made an aggressive offer to secure a potential No. 1 receiver and proven deep threat just three weeks after the departure of Sammy Watkins, who got a three-year, \$48 million deal from the Kansas City Chiefs in free agency.

After weeks of rumors about the Rams' interest in acquiring star receiver Odell Beckham Jr. from the New

York Giants, they managed to find another elite talent at the position. Cooks' speed and versatility should fit in well in coach Sean McVay's schemes as he lines up alongside Robert Woods and Cooper Kupp in the NFL's highest-scoring offense last season.

The trade also appears to be a strategic move on the part of the Patriots: Cooks is entering the fifth year of his rookie contract, and he can become a free agent after the 2018 season.

the 50m breaststroke. Again, Kento was on the elite group and had the best time at 32.47 seconds, more than two seconds better than his old PBT (35.21 seconds).

In other events, SSC swimmers tallied nine PBTs each in the 100m breaststroke and 200m individual medley swims, eight in the 50m butterfly, two in the 400m freestyle, 10 in the 200m freestyle, and four in the 100m backstroke.

10 SSC swimmers recorded PBTs—including David Boyer, with the fastest time (36.07 seconds) among the club members. Boyer's old mark was 36.12 seconds.

In the 100m butterfly, siblings Kaithlynn (1:42.26) and Mark Chavez (1:50.82) got PBTs, joining Camacho-Deleon Guerrero (1:16.51) and Kento (1:01.26) on the short list, while 13 SSC swimmers made the PBT getter roster in

In the 200m breaststroke, SSC also registered two PBTs, courtesy of Lennosuke (2:47.66) and Taiyo (3:26.54), while Jinju Thompson gave the club its only PBT in the 200m backstroke after posting 2:55.08.

In the 100m freestyle, SSC swimmers gained 15 PBTs with Kento having the best time in the entire field with his 55.98 seconds—faster than his seed time of 56.04.

For the 50m backstroke,

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six batters while giving up one earned run after Leveque Iguel touched home plate on a sacrifice bunt by shortstop Josenio Alvarez in the first inning. Alvarez scored the other run for the Braves, reaching home on a throwing error by Yaguel at the top of the seventh inning.

The Falcons scored three runs at the bottom of the fourth inning, as the Braves' defense turned sloppy.

Mark Norita, with one out, got on base on an Alvarez error and advanced on consecutive miscues by the Braves. J.V. Pangelinan was also safe in the last play.

Norita scored on a Tyrese Camacho throwing error, while Pangelinan had one run on another Braves missed play at home. Isiah Teigita followed suit and added another

other run off the eighth error by the Braves in the fourth.

Fielders 15, Comets 2

Donovan Deleon Guerrero led the Fielders' six-run scoring surge in the fourth inning for the easy win over the Comets.

First baseman Deleon Guerrero went 3-for-4 with two runs and three RBIs, while Fielders catcher Trevon Lieto drove in two runs and scored once after going 3-for-3.

Jordan Babauta gave up four hits, struck out three, and walked two batters.

Sab Saures and Kian Aldan scored the two unearned runs for the Comets with the former touching home plate on a passed ball and the latter on a throwing error by Lieto.

The Fielders had 10 hits in the game, while the Comets committed 11 errors.

LIFTER

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year's Mini Games held at the Epauto Adventist High School in Port Vila.

Tudela, who had also represented the CNMI in several regional competitions, had lifts of 90 and 105 for a 195-kg total in the senior men's 85 kg division, while Ada had 141kgs (55 kgs snatch; 86 kgs clean and jerk).

Cruz, on the other hand, won a bronze medal in the women's 69 kgs division in the 2015 Micronesia Weightlifting Invitational in Guam. She lifted 52 kgs in the snatch and 77 kgs in the clean and jerk in her final attempts for

a total of 129 kgs during the Micro Games qualifier two months ago.

Cruz and the Commonwealth's four other representatives to the this year's Micro Games face a tough task of duplicating if not surpassing the CNMI's medal haul in the 2014 edition of the meet held in Pohnpei.

The CNMI won 12 medals in Pohnpei with David Barnhouse, Jr. delivering three golds, Raymond Santos and Leo Apelo contributing three silvers each, and Salvi Villanueva bringing home three bronzes. In the overall medal tally, the Commonwealth collected 14 golds, 15 silvers, and five bronzes.

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started SSC's string of PBTs after completing the lung-busting 1,500m freestyle swim in 20:37.76. The 12-year-old swimmer surpassed his old PBT of 20:58.08. Lennosuke Suzuki also got a PBT in the longest race in the tournament after logging 19:30.37, more than seven minutes faster than his previous mark (19:37.85).

Saipan Vegas Invitational Golf Tournament

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Tars Olopai, center, receives his prizes from Saipan Vegas Golf Resort & Slot Club general manager Gus Noble, right, and event organizer David Largent during the awards banquet for the Inaugural Saipan Vegas Invitational Golf Tournament held last March 24 at the Saipan Country Club. Olopai was the closest to the pin winner at No. 1



Kang Kee Hyun, center, the closest to the pin winner at No. 2, poses with with Saipan Vegas GM Gus Noble, right, and event planner David Largent.



Tournament winner Yoo Dae Young, center, poses with Saipan Vegas GM Gus Noble, right, and event planner David Largent after receiving his prizes. He was also the closest to the curved line winner at No. 3.



Sueng Bang Kim, center, displays the Michelob Ultra golf bag he won after hitting the straightest drive at No. 4.



Bong Kil Kim, center, joins Saipan Vegas GM Gus Noble, right, and event planner David Largent for a group photo after getting his prizes in the closest to the pin contest at No. 6.



Veteran golfer Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, center, is presented with longest drive award at No. 7.



Dan Ganacias, center, is all smiles after taking the closest shot (at No. 8.) plaque.



Manny Mangarero, center, receives his closest to the pin (at No. 9.) award.



Ronaldo scores
stunner as Madrid
beats Juventus

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Durant fires 34
to help Warriors
top Thunder

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lifter San Nicolas to lead NMI team

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Pacific Mini Games bronze medalist Angel San Nicolas will be leading the Commonwealth's medal hunt in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap in July.

San Nicolas was included on the five-member CNMI national weightlifting team that will be competing in the quadrennial sporting event set from July 15 to 27. Joey Tudela and newcomer Rodrigo Ada will be joining San Nicolas, the 2017 Northern Marianas Sports Association Male Athlete of the Year,



JON PEREZ
Angel San Nicolas competes in the Micronesian Games qualifying tournament hosted by the CNMI Weightlifting Federation and held at the Latter Built 24-Hour Fitness and Nutrition Center last February.



in the men's division squad, while Bonny Cruz and Antonette Labausa made up the women's side.

The five athletes were selected after joining the one-day qualifying event hosted

by the CNMI Weightlifting Federation last February at the Latter Built 24-Hour Fitness and Nutrition Center.

San Nicolas, who clinched the bronze in the 10th Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu last

December and took the silver medal in the 2015 Micronesia Weightlifting Invitational in Guam, had a total lift of 235 kgs—105 kgs in the snatch, and 130 kgs in the clean and jerk—in the senior men's 105

kgs category during the qualifying tournament. His record in the qualifier was 16 kgs short of the 251 kgs he lifted when he finished third in last

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Arby Yaguel winds up a pitch in this file photo taken in one of the Falcons' games in the Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. Yaguel led the Falcons to a 6-2 win over the Braves last weekend.

Falcons hand Braves first loss

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Arby Yaguel pitched a complete game and the Falcons capitalized on the Braves' 14 errors to post a 6-2 win in their Senior League division game in the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



Yaguel gave up only six hits and with the help of his teammates' defense, they limited their opponents' offensive production and handed the Braves their first defeat this season.

The Falcons pitcher also tossed five shutout innings, from the second to sixth. He had no walks and struck out

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SSC swimmers earn over 100 PBTs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Saipan Swim Club members had personal best times galore during the 2018 SSC International Meet, recording more than 100 in last month's competition at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The 42 SSC swimmers who raced in the March 23 and 24 tournament combined for 106 PBTs with the most (17) posted in the 50m freestyle event.

Kento Akimaru led the club's PBT getters in the 50m freestyle swim, as he clocked in at 25.37 seconds, beating his previous best mark of 25.61.

Duplicating Kento's feat were Kaya Braxton (49.56 seconds), Kaithlynn Chavez (35.73), Jan Marini Milo (41.69), Sophia Brasuell (41.76), Michael Miller (42.49), Yutaka

Kadokura (53.93), Randy Jun Rabago (56.48), Landon Springer (59.78), Taiga Scoggins (1:00.70), Takeru Jim (40.02), Wataru Kadokura (44.29), Zeno Iwami (52.78),

Jinnosuke Suzuki (29.17), and Taiyo Akimaru (31.32).

Meanwhile, Anthony-Camacho Deleon Guerrero

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Saipan Swim Club member races in the 100m breaststroke event during last month's 2018 SSC International Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.